



**Saskatchewan
Executive
Council**

**Communications
Coordination
Unit**

Saskatchewan

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3085 Albert Street
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**Omnibus
Provincial Public Opinion Survey**

Prepared for:

**Saskatchewan Executive Council
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Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B3**

Submitted by:

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October 1999

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Federal issues that Saskatchewan residents tend to be most concerned with include health care, federal taxes, jobs and unemployment, and agriculture.
- Provincial issues that Saskatchewan residents tend to be most concerned with include agriculture, health care, provincial taxes, and jobs and unemployment.
- Important issues that residents think the newly elected provincial government should be focussing on in the next twelve months include agriculture, health care, provincial taxes and jobs and unemployment.
- The majority of Saskatchewan residents agree the federal government should take responsibility for the agriculture issue, negotiate with our trading partners to get them to reduce their farm subsidies and increase farm supports to match foreign subsidies in the meantime.
- The majority of Saskatchewan residents think it is important to make it easier for families to afford higher education for their children. More than two thirds think the best way to do this is to make it easier to get student loans and then forgive a portion of the loan if students stay in Saskatchewan after graduating.
- The majority of Saskatchewan residents rate the quality of health services which they or their family members have received in the past 12 months as either excellent or good.
- The majority of residents think that funds should be invested to train and then hire more health care workers. They also think community services like homecare and local clinics should be expanded, the number of health boards should be reduced, and that pressure should be taken off hospitals in Regina and Saskatoon by expanding services in some regional hospitals.
- The majority of residents think Saskatchewan should work co-operatively with the federal government regarding Canada-wide issues, as opposed to taking a Saskatchewan-first approach or looking for ways to get the federal government to transfer more power to the province.

METHODOLOGY

Anderson/Fast & Associates was retained by the Government of Saskatchewan to conduct the October 1999 public opinion survey with a representative sample of the Saskatchewan population. The October Omnibus Survey contains questions designed to explore public opinion regarding:

- federal issues of importance to Saskatchewan residents;
- provincial issues of importance to Saskatchewan residents;
- agriculture;
- education;
- health care; and
- provincial taxes.

The questions for the survey were provided by Saskatchewan Executive Council and assembled into an interview format by Anderson/Fast. The questionnaire was pre-tested to ensure that all of the questions being asked in the interview were understood by the general public and the information being gathered addressed the public opinion research objectives.

The sample frame for this public opinion research survey was constructed to obtain complete interviews from a random sample of 800 households throughout Saskatchewan. To ensure proportionate representation from all areas of Saskatchewan, the province was divided into nine geographic sampling districts. Interview respondents were selected randomly from Saskatchewan telephone directories in each region using standard polling practices to ensure random selection of households and respondents. The sampling frame was also constructed to ensure proportionate representation of other important demographic characteristics evident within the provincial population such as gender, age, occupation, level of education and level of household income. This ensures that the opinions of all the various types of people who reside in Saskatchewan are proportionately represented in the statistical measurements documented in this report.

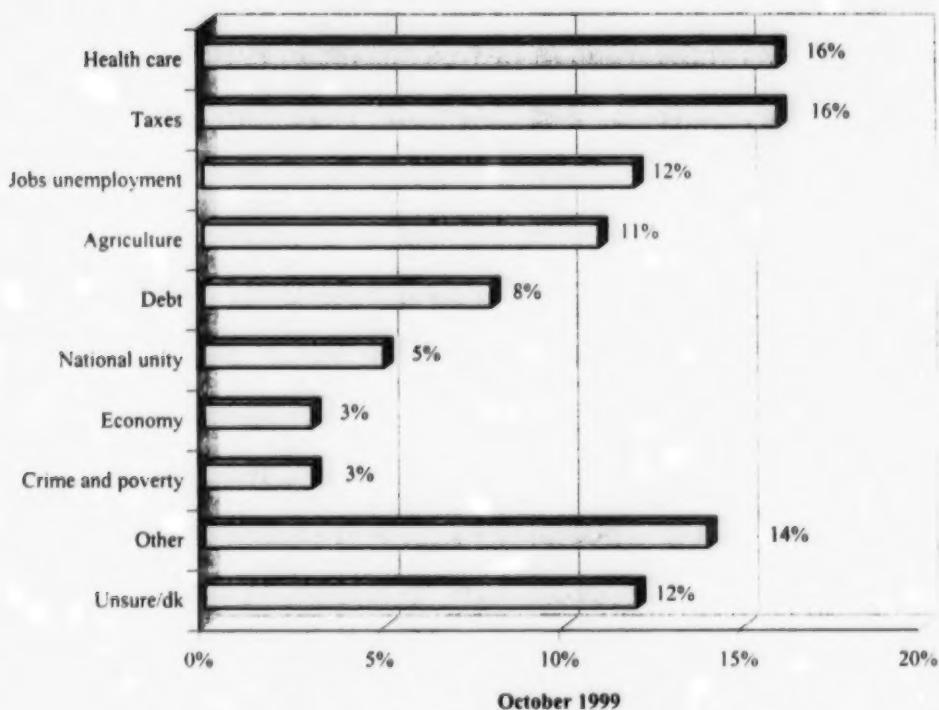
Eight hundred and fifteen residents of the province were interviewed over an eight day period between Tuesday, October 12 and Tuesday, October 19, 1999. Interviews were conducted by telephone at times that were appropriate and convenient for respondents - weekdays between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and weekends between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. All interviews were conducted by Anderson/Fast's in-house public opinion interviewers using our *Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing* (CATI) call centre.

The Omnibus survey sample size of 815 people yields public opinion measurements with a statistical level of confidence of 95 percent within an overall margin of error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points: reliable results with low variability. Frequency charts for all public opinion issues are illustrated in this report.

Anderson/Fast designed and implemented programs to facilitate the statistical analysis using the industry standard SPSS computer program (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Data checking procedures were utilized at all times to ensure accuracy of the data. We also conducted statistical tests on the demographics to check for reliability and validity of the survey data.

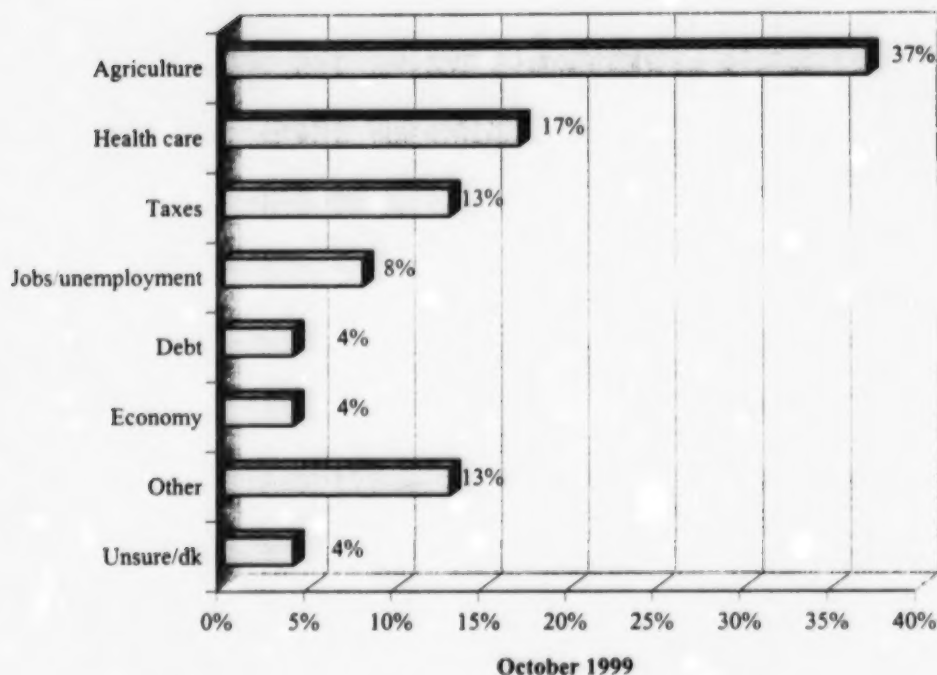
1.0 GENERAL ISSUES

Question 1. In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing Canada today?



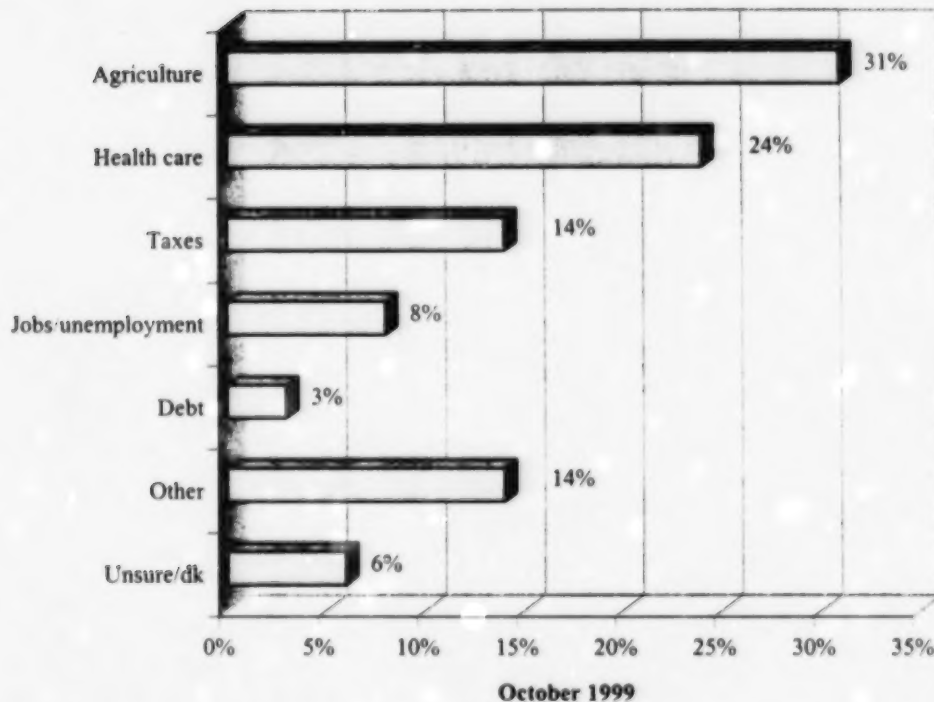
- According to 16% of Saskatchewan residents, the most important issue facing Canada today is the health care system, and another 16% mention federal taxes. Other important issues include jobs and unemployment (12%), agriculture (11%), the national deficit and accumulated debt (8%), national unity (5%), the economy (3%), and crime and poverty (3%).
- Approximately 14% of respondents are primarily concerned with 'other' issues such as moral, social and religious issues (2%), education (2%), the federal government in general (2%), and children and youth (2%).

Question 2. What do you think is the most important issue facing the province of Saskatchewan today?



- The most important issue facing the province today, according to 37% of Saskatchewan residents, is agriculture. Approximately 17% of residents think health care is the most important issue, 13% taxes, 8% jobs and unemployment, 4% the accumulated provincial debt and 4% the provincial economy.
- Included among 'other' important issues identified by 13% of respondents are government in general (2%), education (2%), and highways (2%).

Question 3. What do you believe is the most important issue the newly elected government of Saskatchewan should be focussing on in the next twelve months?

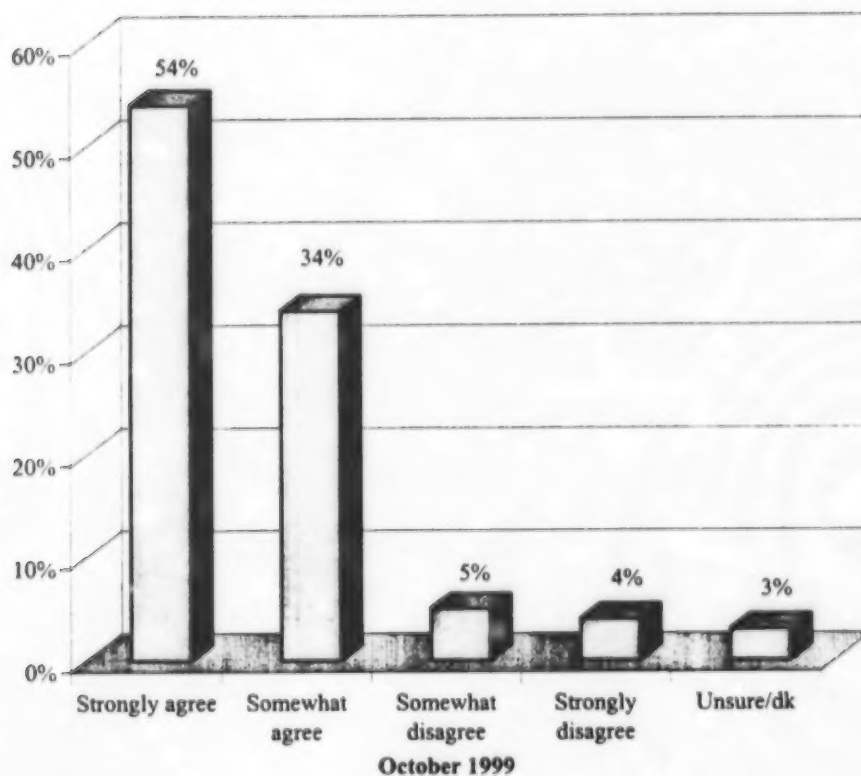


- Almost one third (31%) of Saskatchewan residents think the most important issue the newly elected provincial government should be focussing on in the next twelve months is agriculture. Approximately 24% of residents suggest health care is the most important issue to focus on, 14% suggest taxes, 8% say jobs and unemployment and 3% suggest the provincial deficit and accumulated debt.
- 'Other' issues identified by 14% of respondents are the government in general (4%), education (2%) and highways (2%).

2.0 AGRICULTURE

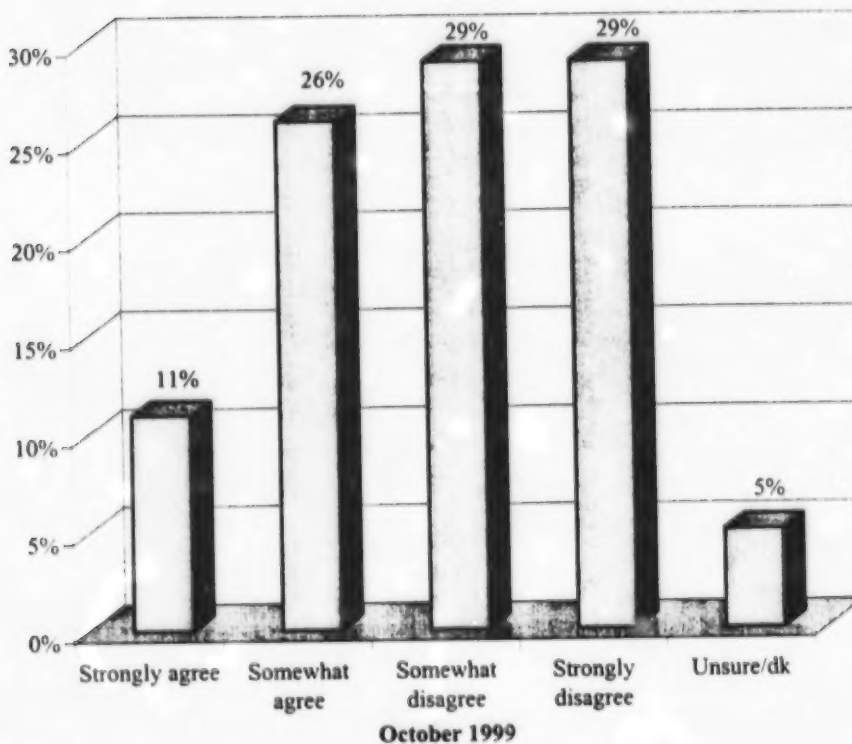
As you may know, Saskatchewan farm families are facing a very difficult farm income crisis this year. I'm going to outline some of the solutions that have been proposed for dealing with this problem, and I'd like you to tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the solution.

Question 4a. The federal government should take responsibility for the issue, negotiate with our trading partners to get them to reduce their farm subsidies, and increase farm supports to match foreign subsidies in the meantime.



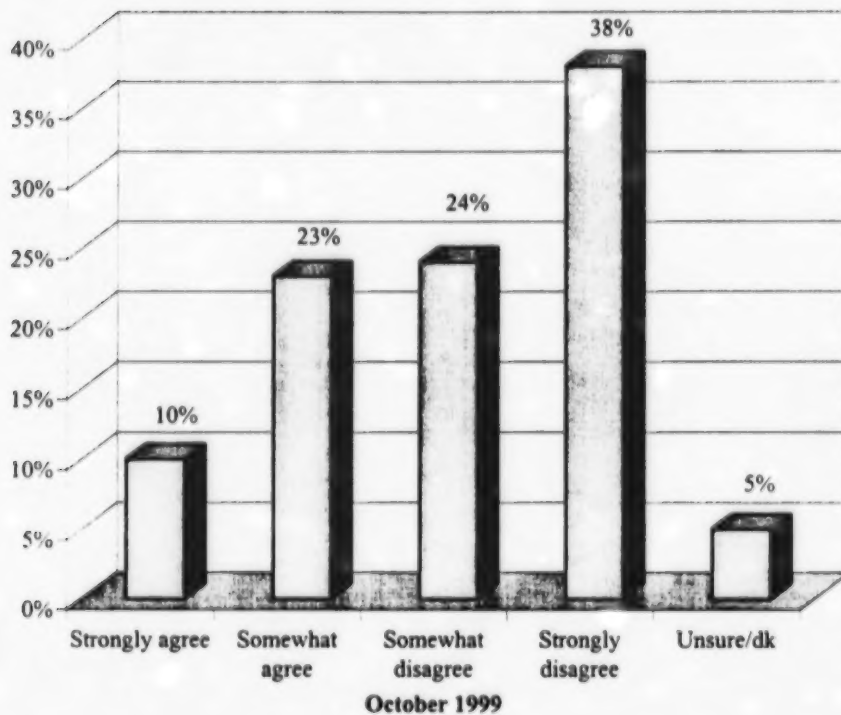
- The majority (88%) of Saskatchewan residents agree the federal government should take responsibility for the agriculture issue, negotiate with our trading partners to get them to reduce their farm subsidies and increase farm supports to match foreign subsidies in the meantime.

Question 4b. The provincial government should put off any tax cuts or increases in spending on services like health care and education and provide more provincial money for farm aid.



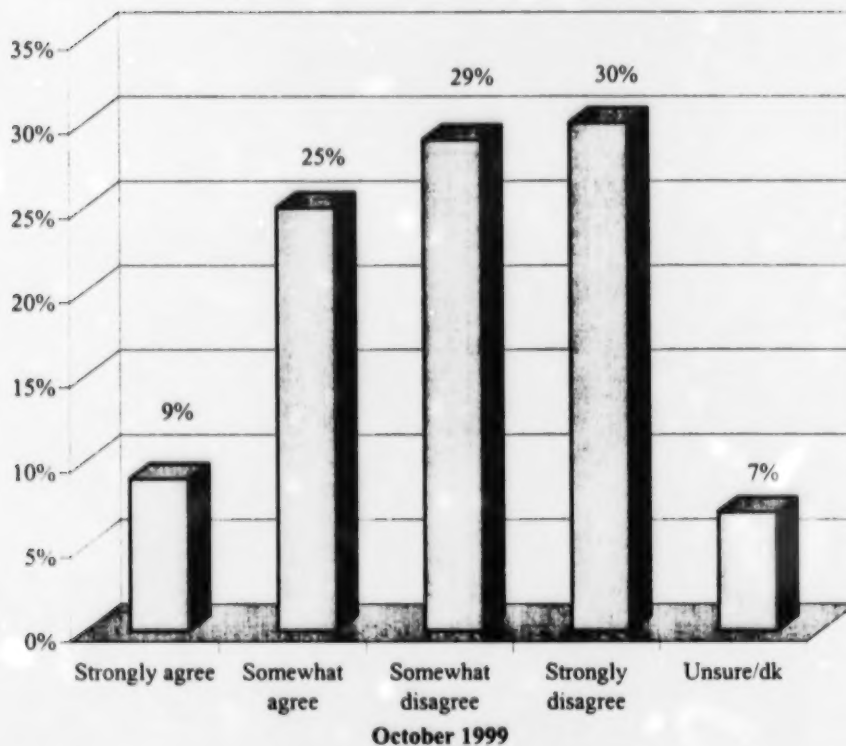
- More than one third (37%) agree the provincial government should put off tax cuts or increases in spending on services like health care and education and provide more provincial money for farm aid; the majority (58%) disagree.

Question 4c. The provincial government should run a deficit this year in order to provide more money for farm aid.



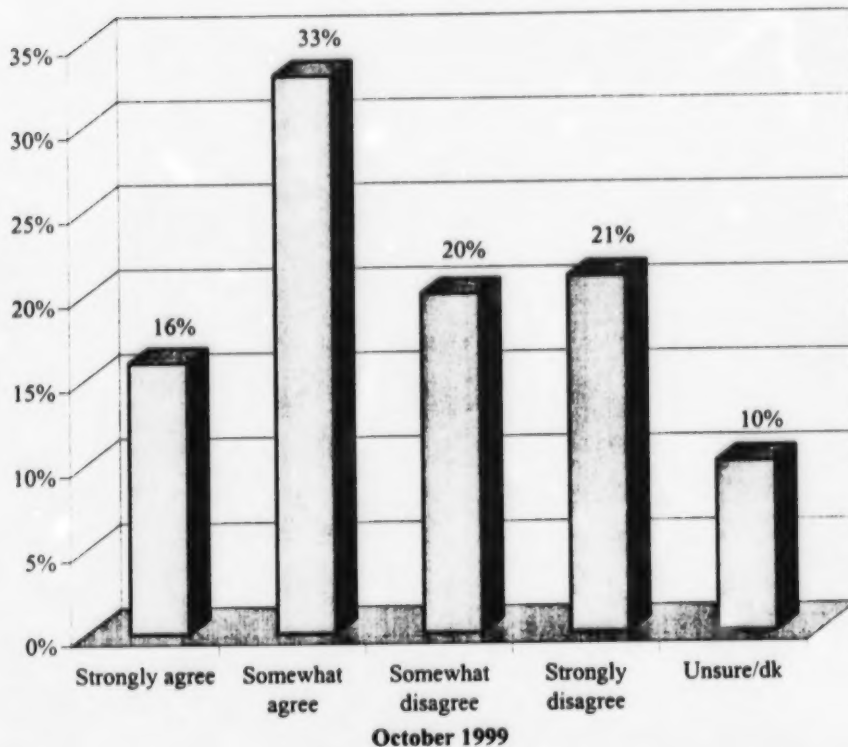
- One third (33%) of residents agree the provincial government should run a deficit this year in order to provide more money for farm aid; the majority (62%) disagree.

Question 4d. The provincial government should cut spending on services in order to provide more money for farm aid.



- Approximately one third (34%) of Saskatchewan residents agree the provincial government should cut spending on services in order to provide more money for farm aid; the majority (59%) disagree.

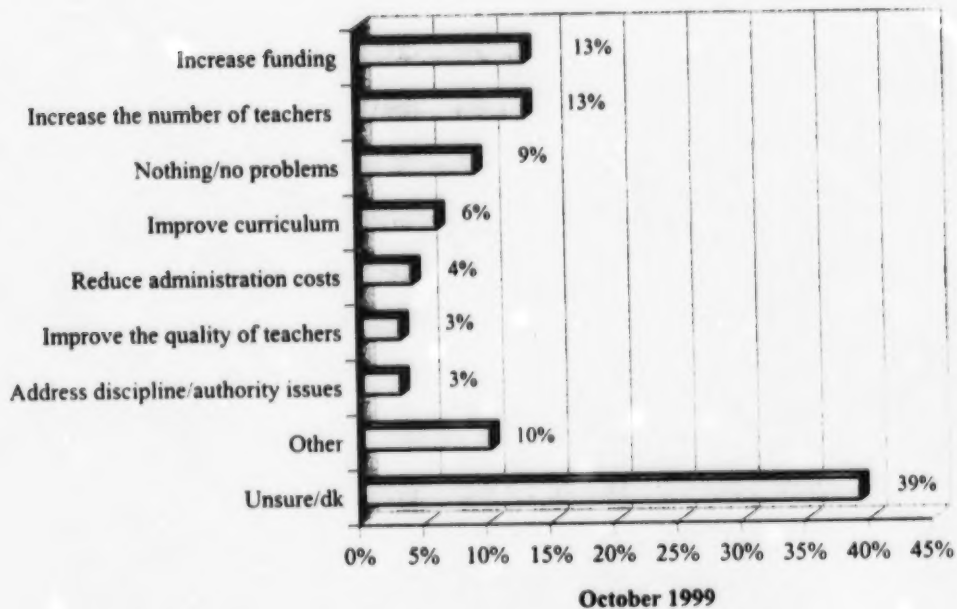
Question 4e. The provincial government should cut spending on services and put off any general tax cuts and bring in major cuts to the provincial taxes that farm producers pay.



- Almost one half (49%) agree the provincial government should cut spending on services, put off general tax cuts and bring major cuts in taxes that farm producers pay.

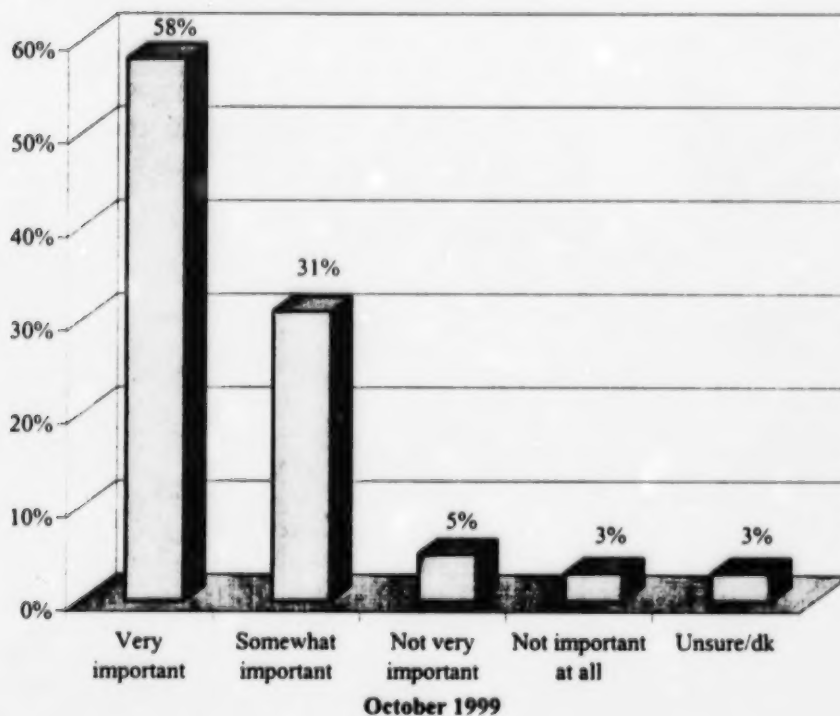
3.0 EDUCATION

Question 5. What do you believe is the most important thing the provincial government could do to improve the quality of education in our elementary and high schools?



- Approximately 13% of Saskatchewan residents believe the provincial government could increase funding to improve the quality of education in elementary and high schools, 13% think the number of teachers should be increased and 6% think the government should improve the curriculum.
- About one in ten (10%) mention 'other' things the government could do to improve the quality of education such as increase resources (2%), increase the number of facilities (2%), place more emphasis on teaching job-related skills (2%), and address the issue of the cost of education (2%).

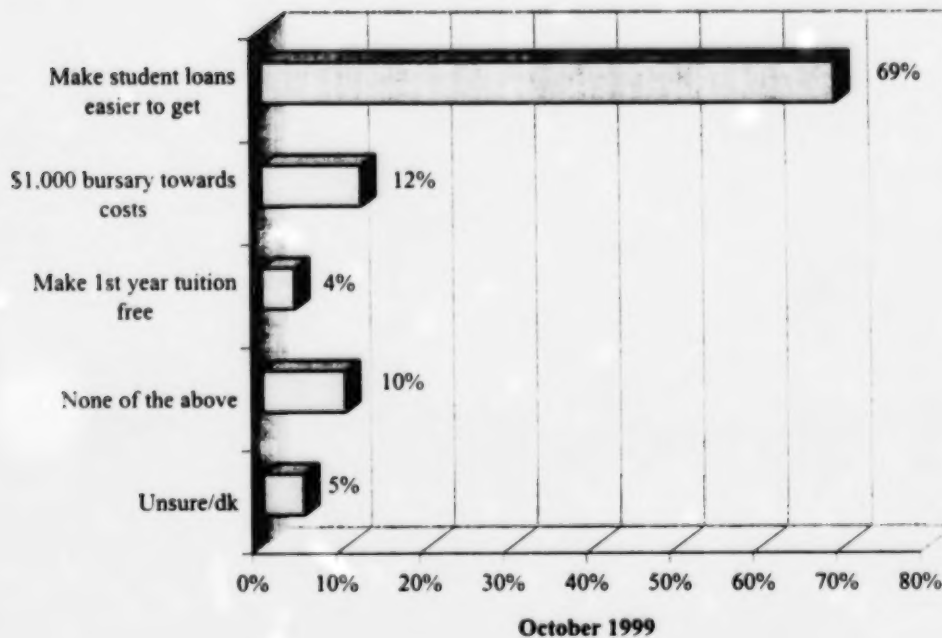
Question 6. How big a priority do you believe it should be to make it easier for families to afford higher education for their children at a regional college, SIAST or university?



- The majority (89%) of Saskatchewan residents think it is important to make it easier for families to afford higher education for their children.

Question 7. What do you think would be the best way to help families afford tuition for higher education:

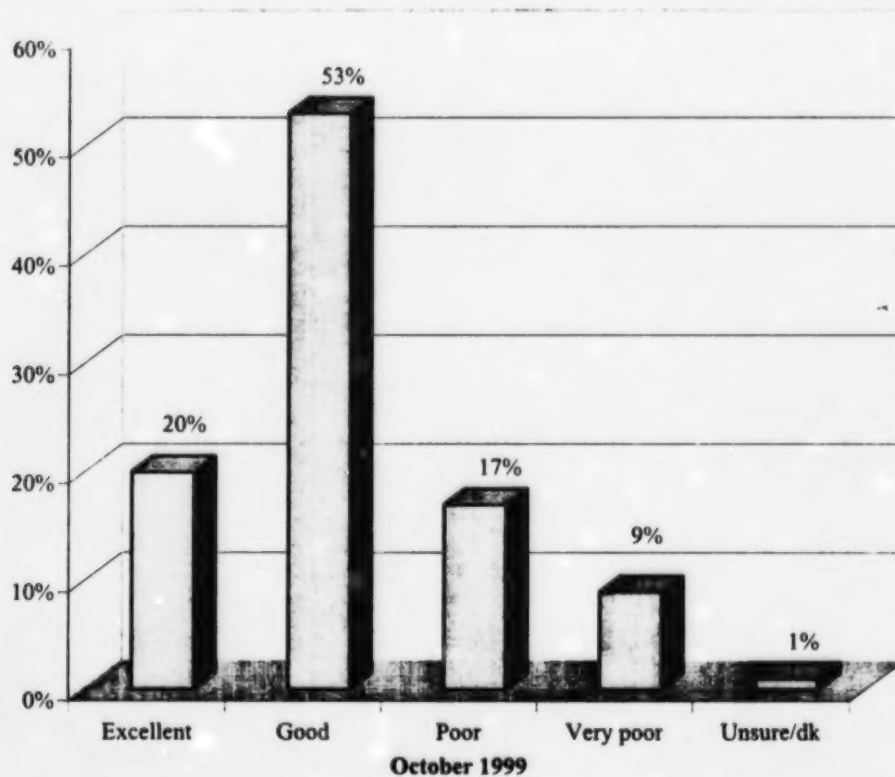
- a) make the first year of year of university and college tuition free;
- b) provide all university or college students with a \$1,000 bursary to help cover tuition costs; or
- c) make it easier to get student loans and then forgive a portion of the loan if students stay in Saskatchewan after graduating.



- More than two thirds (69%) think the best way to help families afford tuition for higher education is to make it easier to get student loans and then forgive a portion of the loan if students stay in Saskatchewan after graduating.

4.0 HEALTH CARE

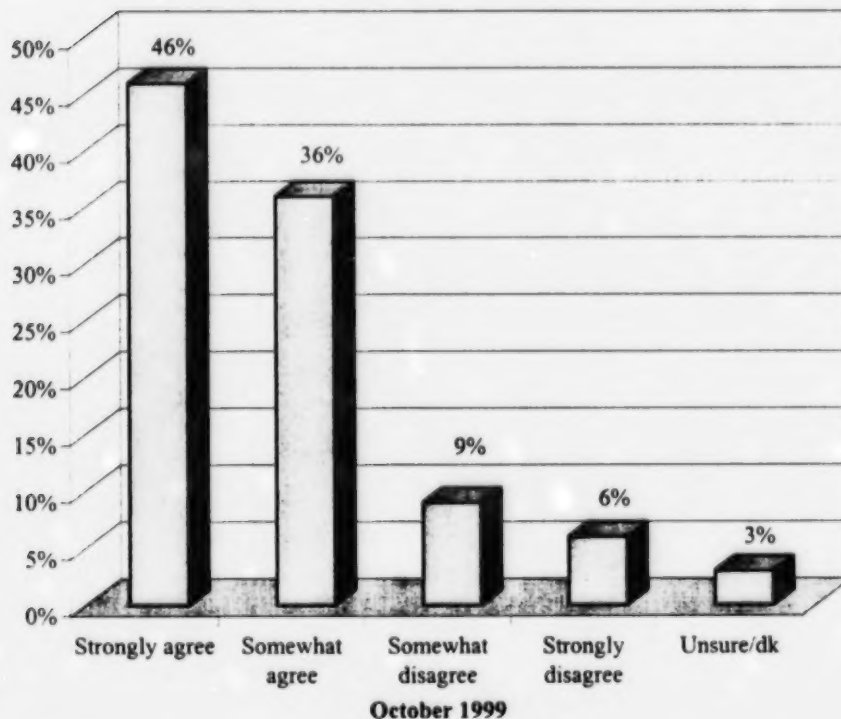
Question 8. How would you rate the quality of health services you yourself or your family members have received in the past 12 months?



- The majority of residents (73%) rate the quality of health care services they or their family members have received in the past 12 months as either excellent or good.

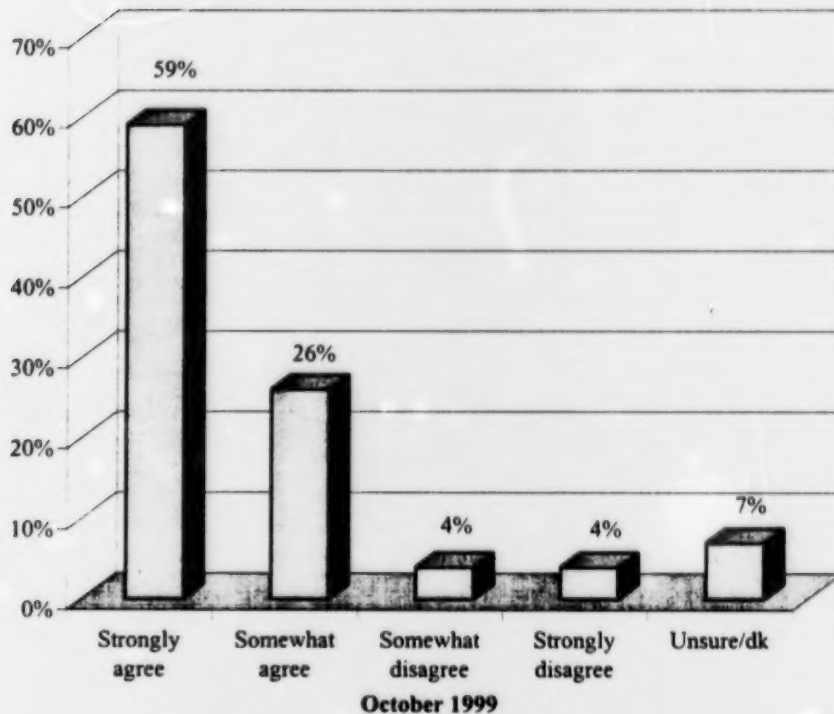
I'm going to read you some ideas that have been proposed to improve health care, and for each one I'd like you to tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the proposal.

Question 9a. Pressure should be taken off hospitals in Regina and Saskatoon by expanding services in ten or twelve regional hospitals.



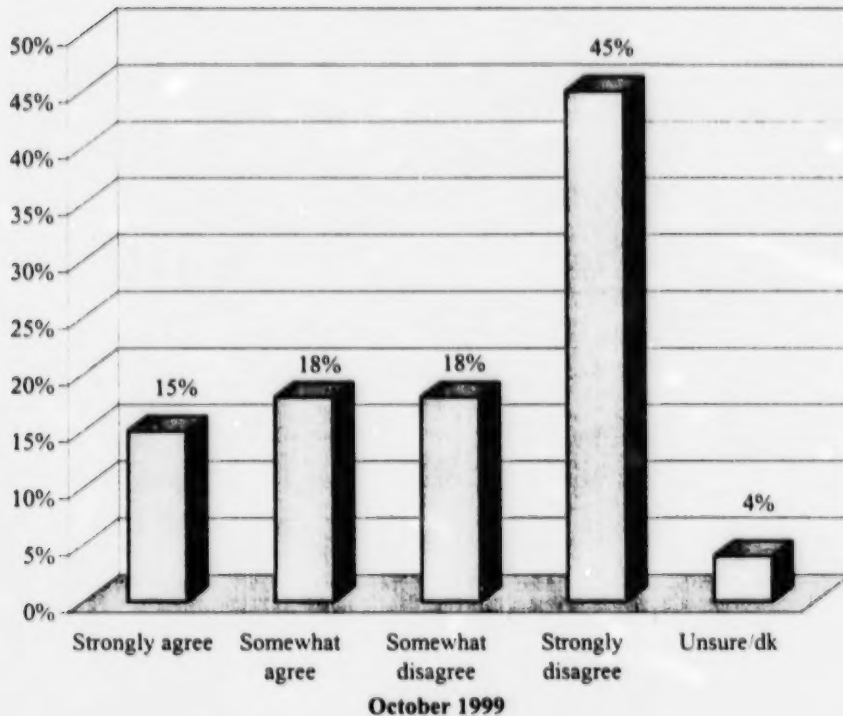
- The majority of Saskatchewan residents (82%) agree that pressure should be taken off hospitals in Regina and Saskatoon by expanding services in some regional hospitals.

Question 9b. The number of health boards should be reduced and savings should be transferred to front-line care.



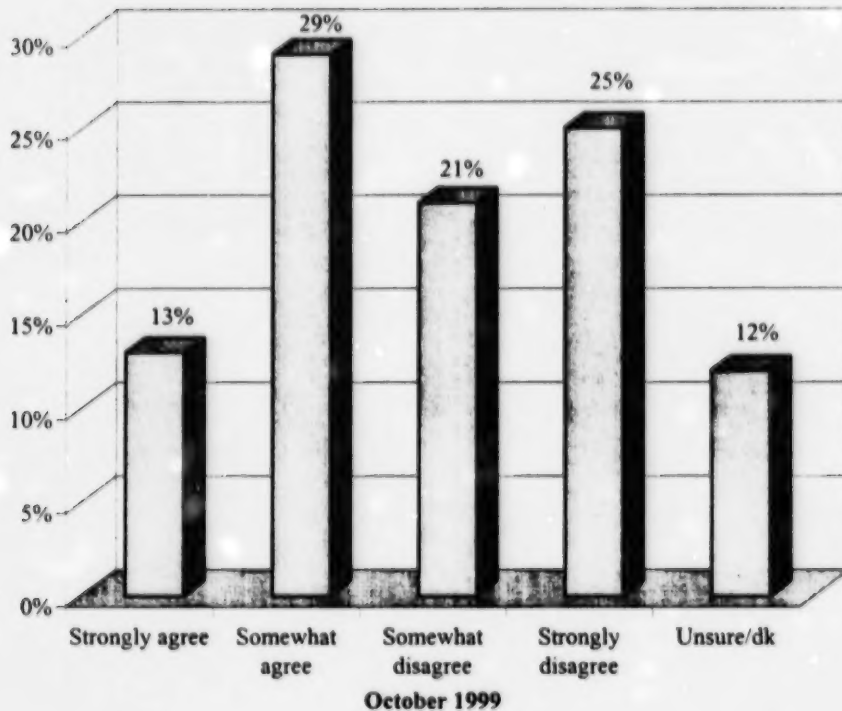
- The majority (85%) of residents agree the number of health boards should be reduced and savings should be transferred to front-line care.

Question 9c. People who can afford to should be allowed to pay for their medical services so that they don't have to wait on waiting lists with other patients.



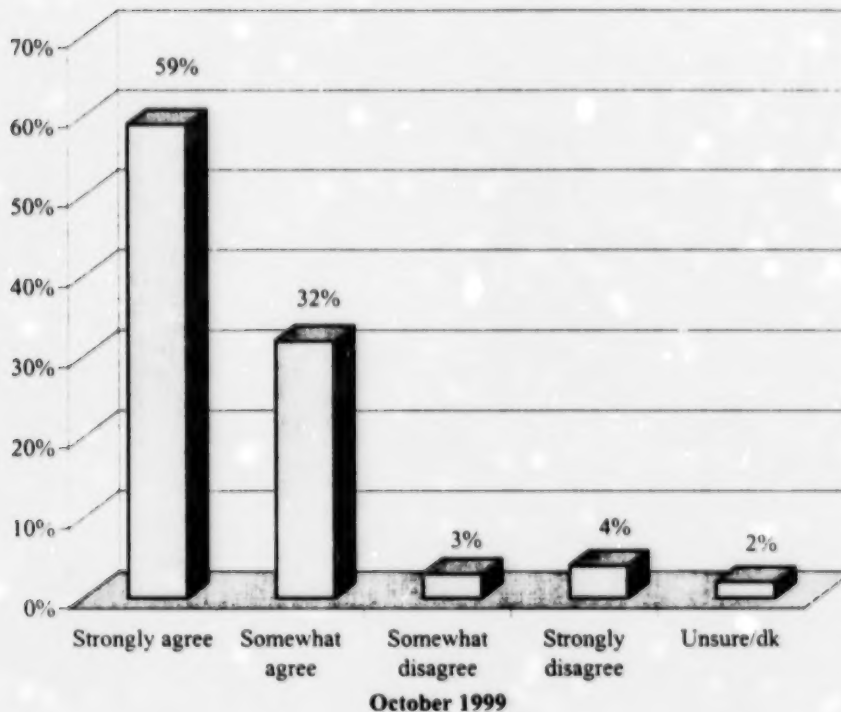
- Only about one third (33%) of residents agree that people who can afford to should be allowed to pay for their medical services so that they don't have to wait on a waiting list with other patients; the majority (63%) disagree.

Question 9d. The government should leave the current elected health boards in place, provide them with block grants with no strings attached and let the health boards make the decisions they feel appropriate about health services.



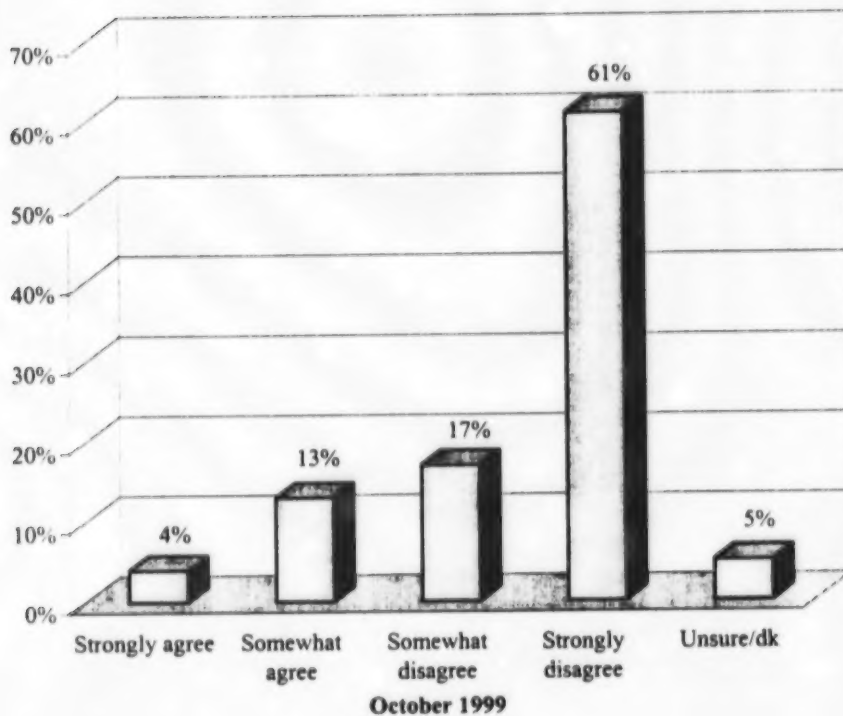
- Approximately 42% agree the government should leave the current elected health boards in place, provide them with block grants with no strings attached and let the health boards make decisions they feel appropriate about health services; approximately 46% disagree.

Question 9e. Funds should be invested to train and then hire more health care workers to take some of the pressure off existing staff.



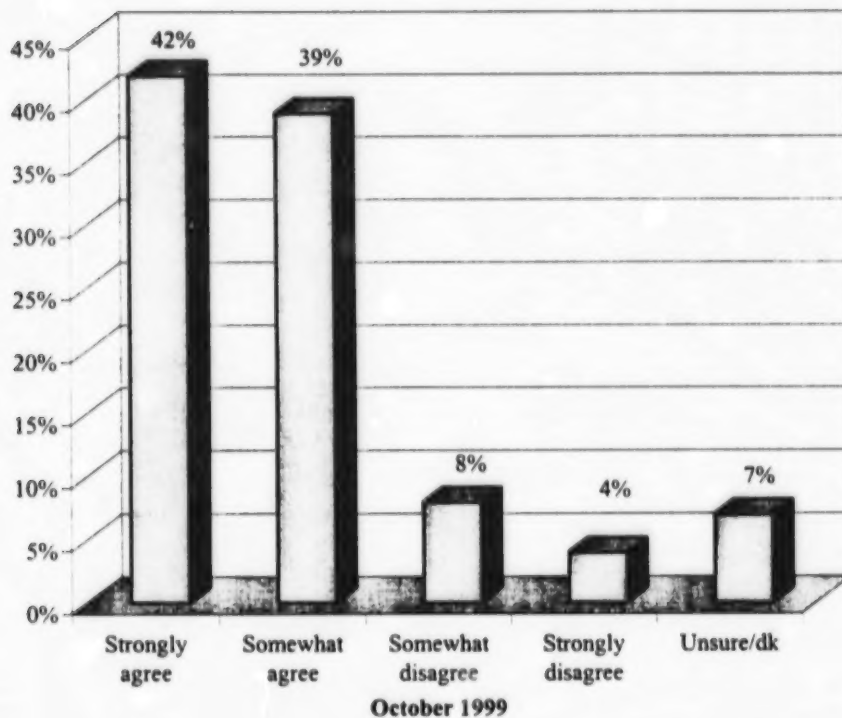
- The large majority (91%) of Saskatchewan residents agree funds should be invested to train and then hire more health care workers to take some of the pressure off the existing staff.

Question 9f. The government should fund "core" health services like hospitals and doctors and turn the rest of the health care system over to the private sector. People would cover the costs of private-sector health care through private health insurance like the United States.



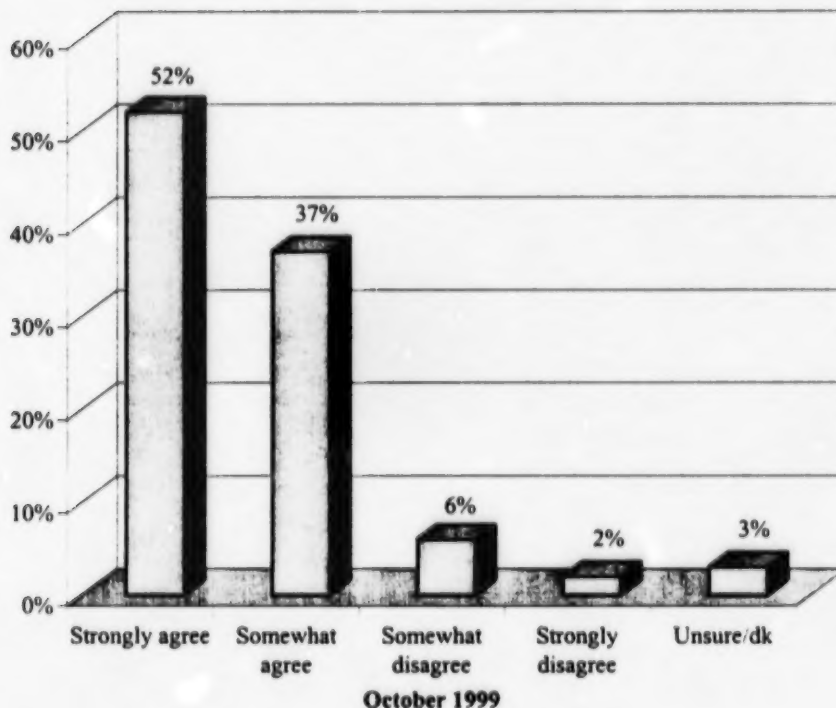
- Approximately 17% of residents agree the government should fund "core" health services like hospitals and doctors and turn the rest of the health care system over to the private sector; the majority (61%) strongly disagree.

Question 9g. The government should take a careful look at services and facilities that aren't being used and transfer funding from them to services where there is high demand.



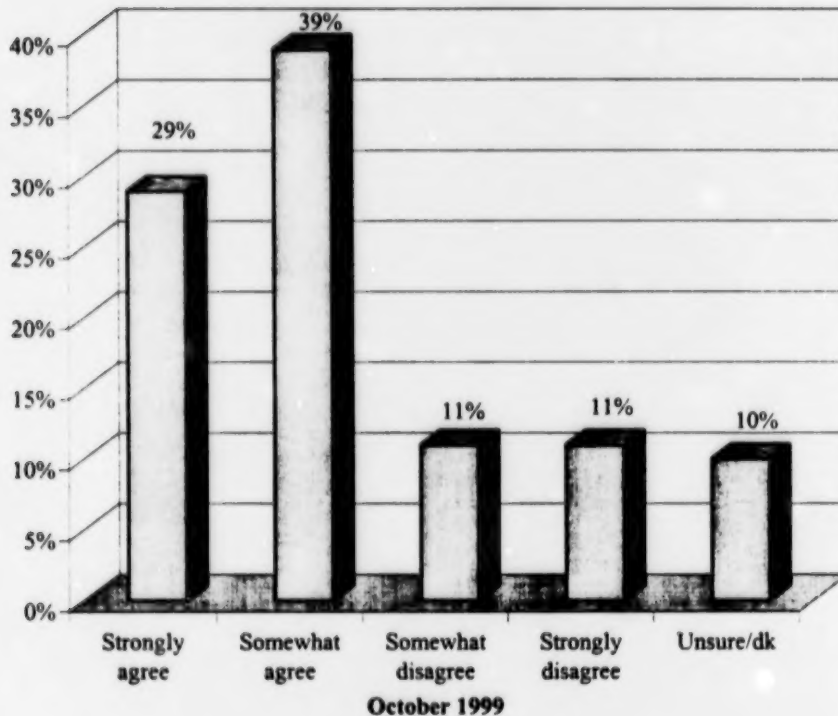
- The majority (81%) agree the government should take a careful look at services and facilities that aren't being used and transfer funding from them to services where there is high demand.

Question 9h. Community services like homecare and local clinics should be expanded to help people who would otherwise have to go to hospitals.



- The large majority (89%) of residents agree community services like homecare and local clinics should be expanded to help people who would otherwise have to go to the hospital.

Question 9i. The government should freeze the health care budget at its current level and ask the provincial auditor to do an audit of the whole system. The government should then implement whatever the auditor recommends to make health care work better.

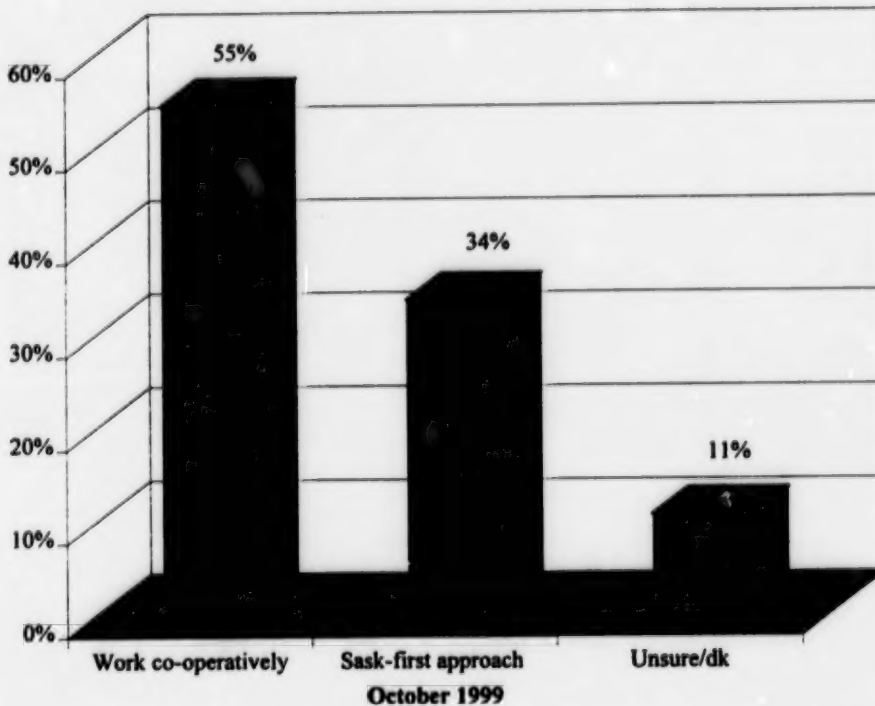


- The majority (68%) agree the government should freeze the health care budget at its current level and ask the provincial auditor to do an audit of the whole system.

5.0 CANADA ISSUES

Question 10. What basic approach do you think the province of Saskatchewan should take to Canada and Canada-wide issues:

- a) our provincial government should be working co-operatively with the federal government and the other provinces to keep Canada together and make it work better; or
- b) our provincial government should take a Saskatchewan-first approach and look for ways to get the federal government to transfer more powers and resources to Saskatchewan.



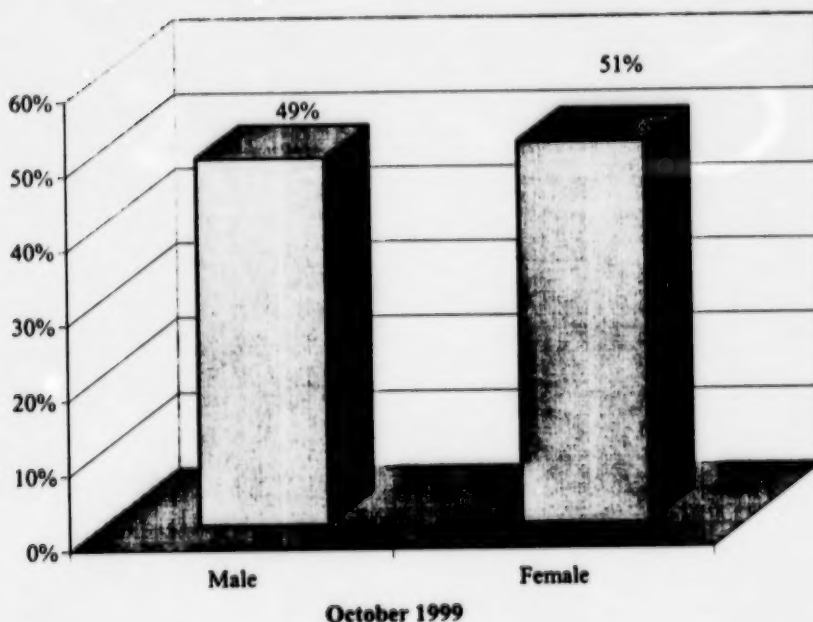
- The majority (55%) of residents think Saskatchewan should work co-operatively with the federal government regarding Canada-wide issues, as opposed to taking a Saskatchewan-first approach or looking for ways to get the federal government to transfer more power to the provinces.

APPENDIX II SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

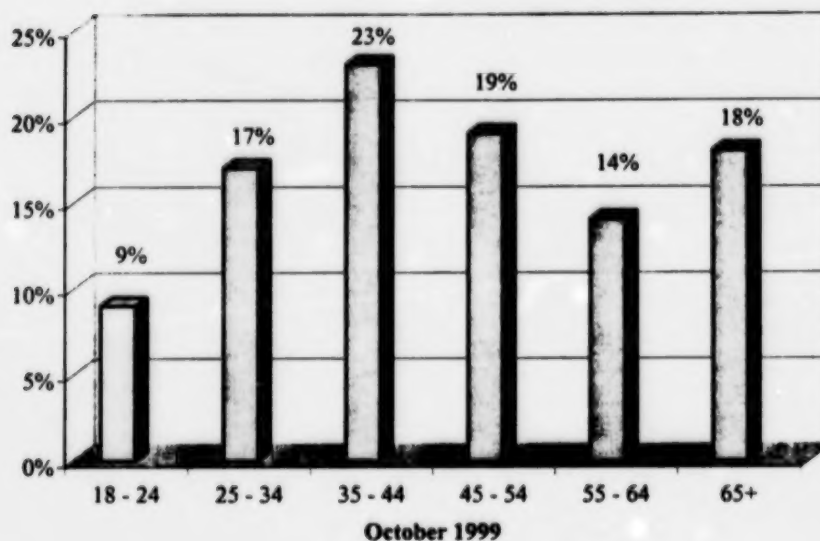
The omnibus public opinion sample frame is constructed to facilitate proportionate representation of various demographic characteristics evident within the province of Saskatchewan. This ensures that opinions of all the various types of residents in Saskatchewan are proportionately represented in the statistical measurements documented in this report. The demographic distributions from the survey sample generally parallel the province's actual population distributions, as measured by Statistics Canada census data.

The omnibus survey sample size of 815 people yields public opinion measurements with a statistical level of confidence of 95 percent within an overall margin of error for the point estimates contained in this report of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points.

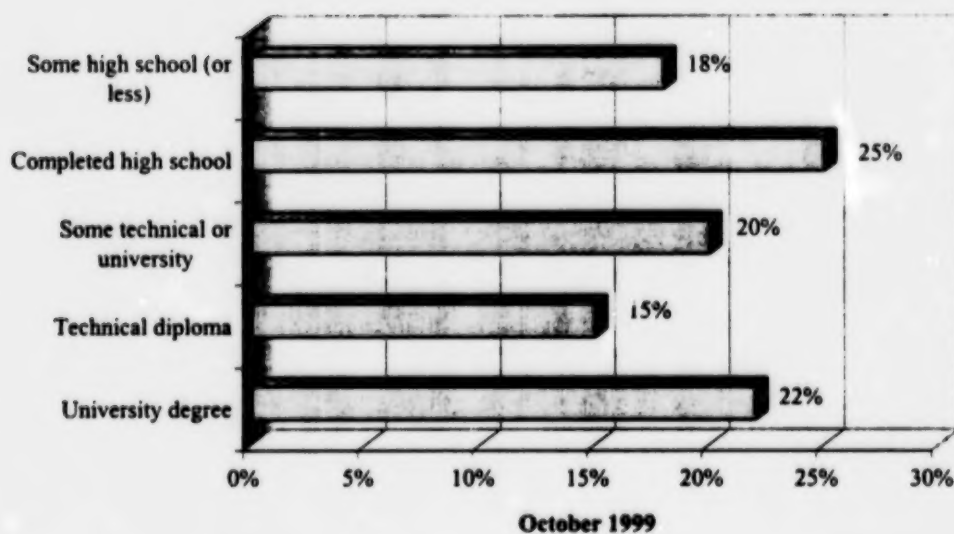
Survey sample gender distribution



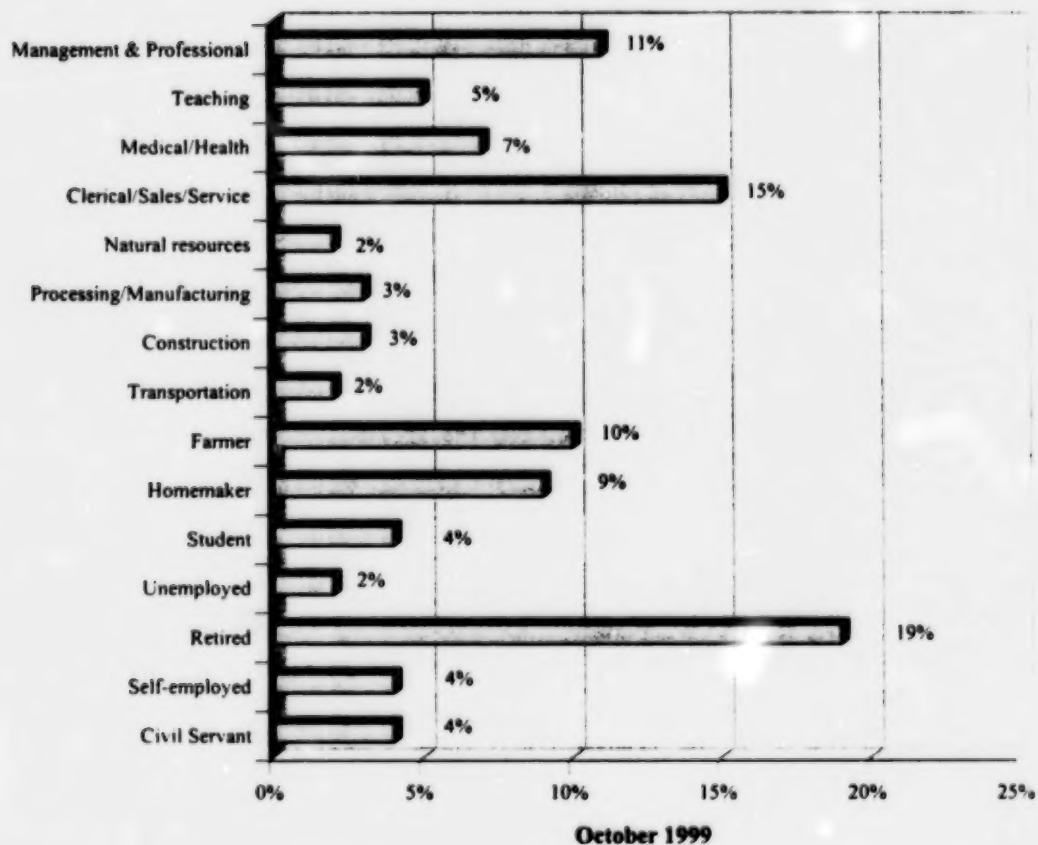
Survey sample age distribution



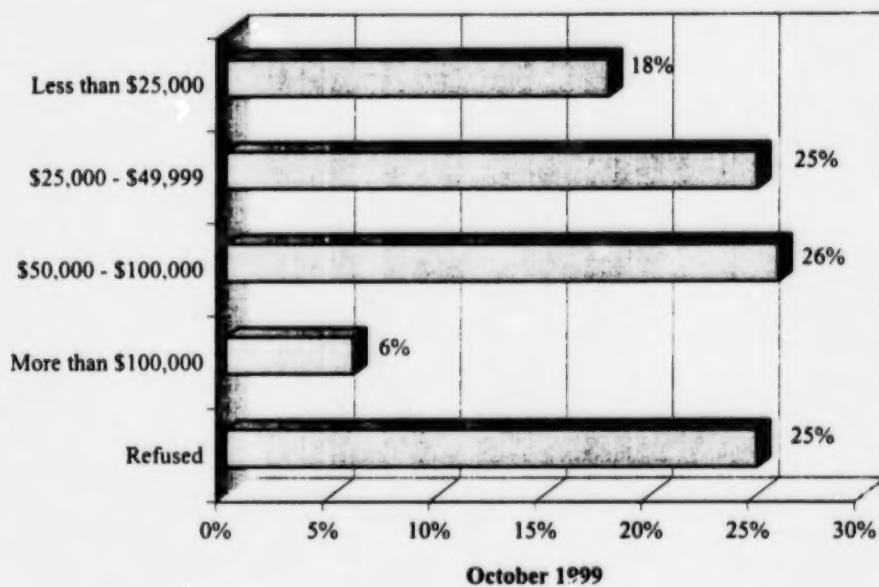
Survey sample education distribution



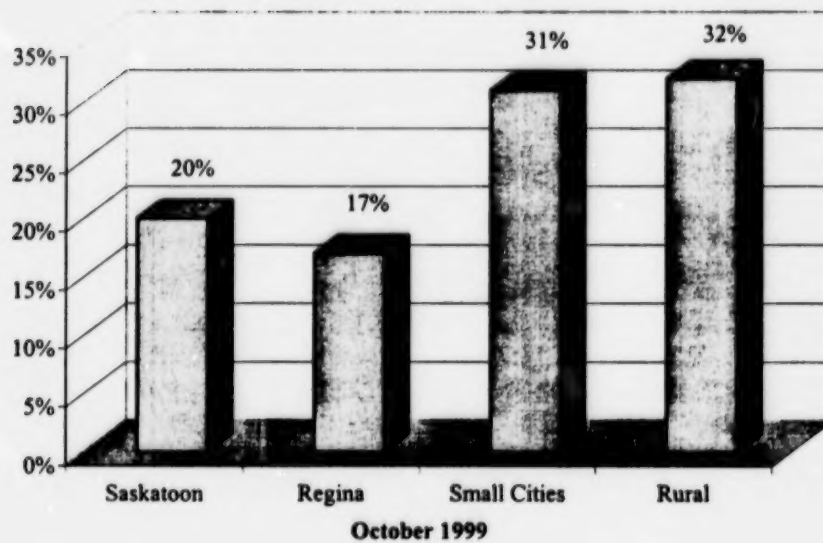
Survey sample occupation distribution



Survey sample income distribution



Survey sample regional distribution



Department/Crown commissioning the work:

Executive Council

Date: **November, 1999**

Supplier: **Anderson/Fast & Associates,
Saskatoon**

Cost: **\$22,500**

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Provincial Public Opinion Survey**

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November 1999

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Federal issues that Saskatchewan residents tend to be most concerned with include federal taxes, health care, jobs and unemployment, and agriculture.
- Provincial issues that Saskatchewan residents tend to be most concerned with include agriculture, provincial taxes, health care, and jobs and unemployment.
- Important issues that residents think the newly elected provincial government should be focussing on in the next twelve months include agriculture, health care, provincial taxes and jobs and unemployment.
- The vast majority of residents approve of changes the government is making to the justice system, including the way the government has targeted funds to set up a program called the "Serious and Habitual Youth Offender Comprehensive Action Program", targeted funds to strengthen the prosecutions branch of the justice department, and the launch of a "serious crimes task force" to fight crimes.
- The majority consider violence within the family an important public issue. The large majority of Saskatchewan residents think it is important that the government take action to prevent family violence by intervening in family violence situations through front line services, providing violence prevention education in schools, setting up programs aimed at helping abusers change their behavior and increasing awareness of the issue.
- More than two thirds of residents think the education system in Saskatchewan is the same or better than that of the rest of the country.
- The large majority of Saskatchewan residents think the quality of Saskatchewan's elementary and secondary education is adequate or better.
- The majority of residents think high school students are prepared for entering post-secondary institutions; more than one third think high school students are prepared for entering the workforce.
- The majority think the post-secondary education and skills training system in Saskatchewan is the same or better than that of the rest of the country.
- The large majority of Saskatchewan residents think the quality of Saskatchewan's training programs is adequate or better.

METHODOLOGY

Anderson/Fast & Associates was retained by the Government of Saskatchewan to conduct the November 1999 public opinion survey with a representative sample of the Saskatchewan population. The November Omnibus Survey contains questions designed to explore public opinion regarding:

- federal issues of importance to Saskatchewan residents;
- provincial issues of importance to Saskatchewan residents;
- the justice system;
- family violence;
- education;
- post-secondary education and skills training; and
- the Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation.

The questions for the survey were provided by Saskatchewan Executive Council and assembled into an interview format by Anderson/Fast. The questionnaire was pre-tested to ensure that all of the questions being asked in the interview were understood by the general public and the information being gathered addressed the public opinion research objectives.

The sample frame for this public opinion research survey was constructed to obtain complete interviews from a random sample of 1,000 households throughout Saskatchewan. To ensure proportionate representation from all areas of Saskatchewan, the province was divided into nine geographic sampling districts. Interview respondents were selected randomly from Saskatchewan telephone directories in each region using standard polling practices to ensure random selection of households and respondents. The sampling frame was also constructed to ensure proportionate representation of other important demographic characteristics evident within the provincial population such as gender, age, occupation, level of education and level of household income. This ensures that the opinions of all the various types of people who reside in Saskatchewan are proportionately represented in the statistical measurements documented in this report.

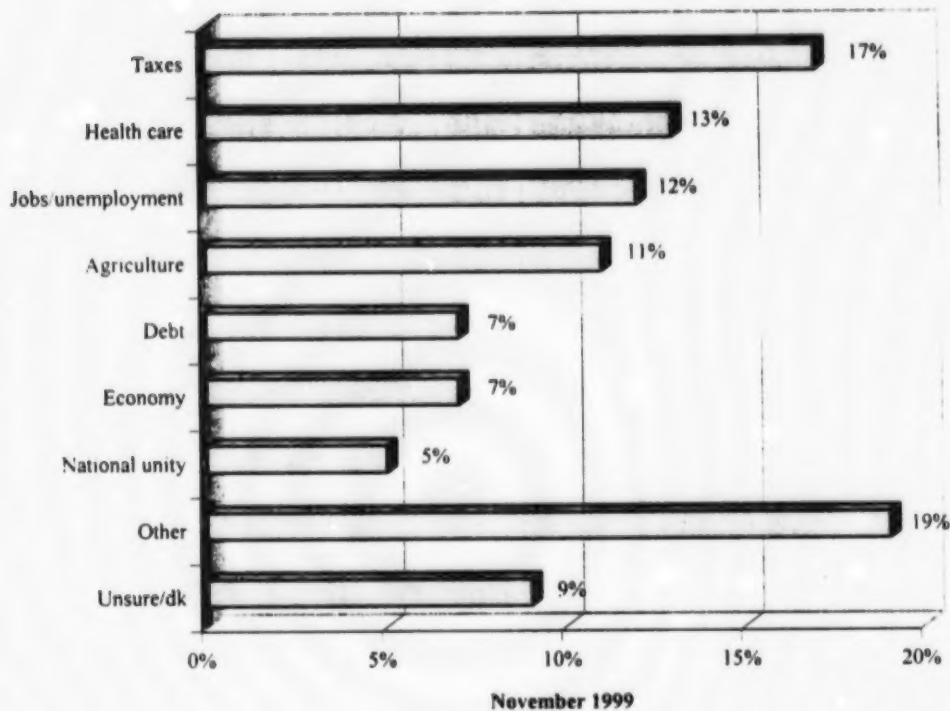
One thousand residents of the province were interviewed over an eleven day period between Friday, November 12 and Monday, November 22, 1999. Interviews were conducted by telephone at times that were appropriate and convenient for respondents - weekdays between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and weekends between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. All interviews were conducted by Anderson/Fast's in-house public opinion interviewers using our *Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing (CATI)* call centre.

The Omnibus survey sample size of 1,000 people yields public opinion measurements with a statistical level of confidence of 95 percent within an overall margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points: reliable results with low variability. Frequency charts for all public opinion issues are illustrated in this report.

Anderson/Fast designed and implemented programs to facilitate the statistical analysis using the industry standard SPSS computer program (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Data checking procedures were utilized at all times to ensure accuracy of the data. We also conducted statistical tests on the demographics to check for reliability and validity of the survey data.

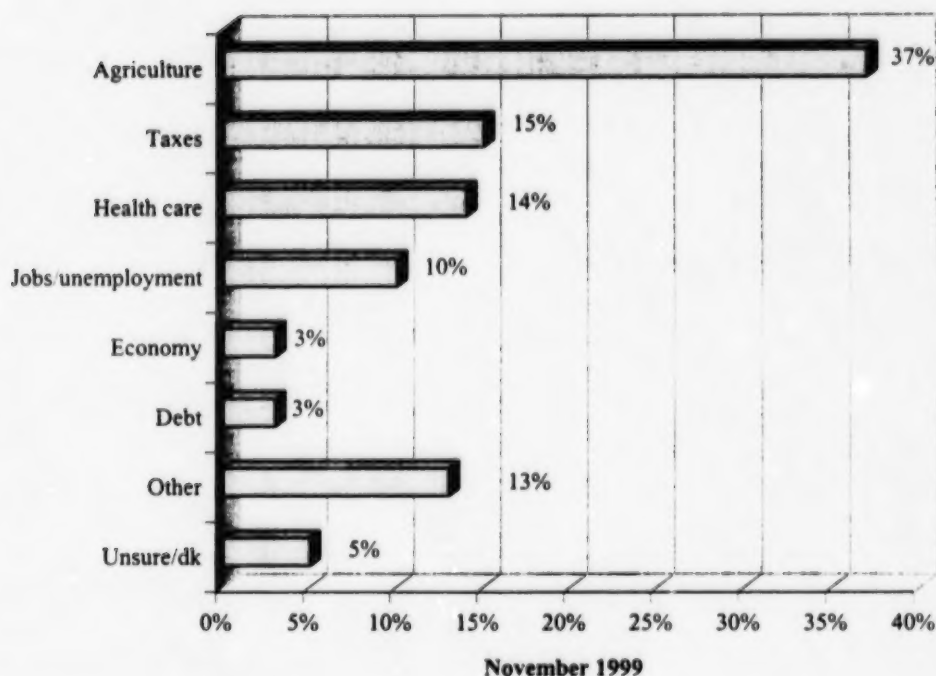
1.0 GENERAL ISSUES

Question 1. In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing Canada today?



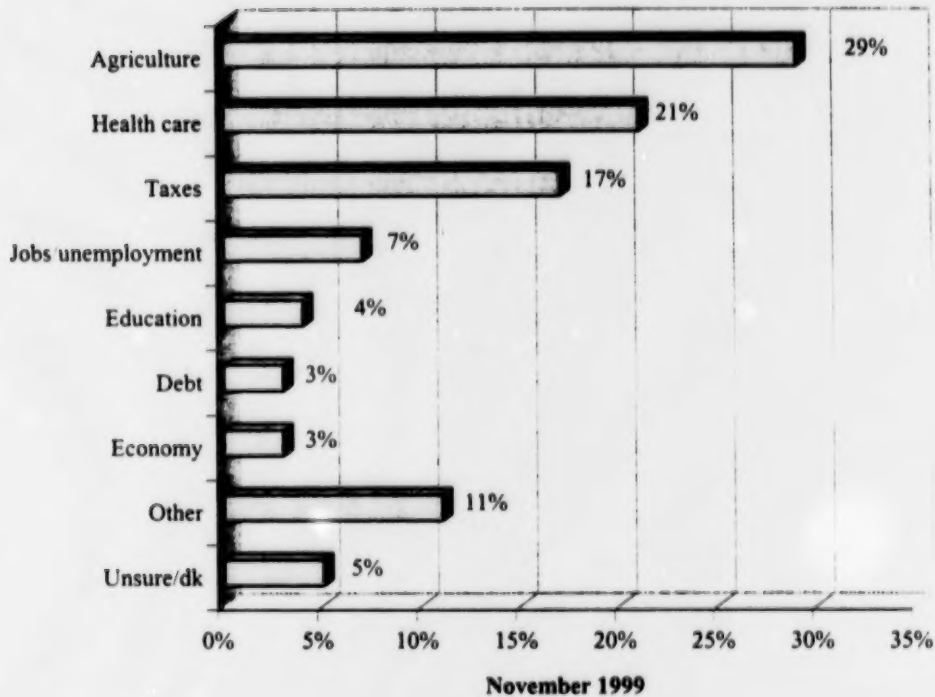
- According to 17% of Saskatchewan residents, the most important issue facing Canada today is federal taxes. Other important issues include health care (13%), jobs and unemployment (12%), agriculture (11%), the national deficit and accumulated debt (7%), the economy (7%), and national unity (5%).
- Approximately 19% of respondents are primarily concerned with 'other' issues such as the federal government in general (3%), crime and poverty (2%), moral, social and religious issues (2%), education (2%), and Native issues (2%).

Question 2. What do you think is the most important issue facing the province of Saskatchewan today?



- The most important issue facing the province today, according to 37% of Saskatchewan residents, is agriculture. Approximately 15% of residents think taxes are the most important issue, 14% health care, 10% jobs and unemployment, 3% the provincial economy and 3% the accumulated provincial debt.
- Included among 'other' important issues identified by 13% of respondents are government in general (2%), education (2%), population loss (2%), and Native issues (2%).

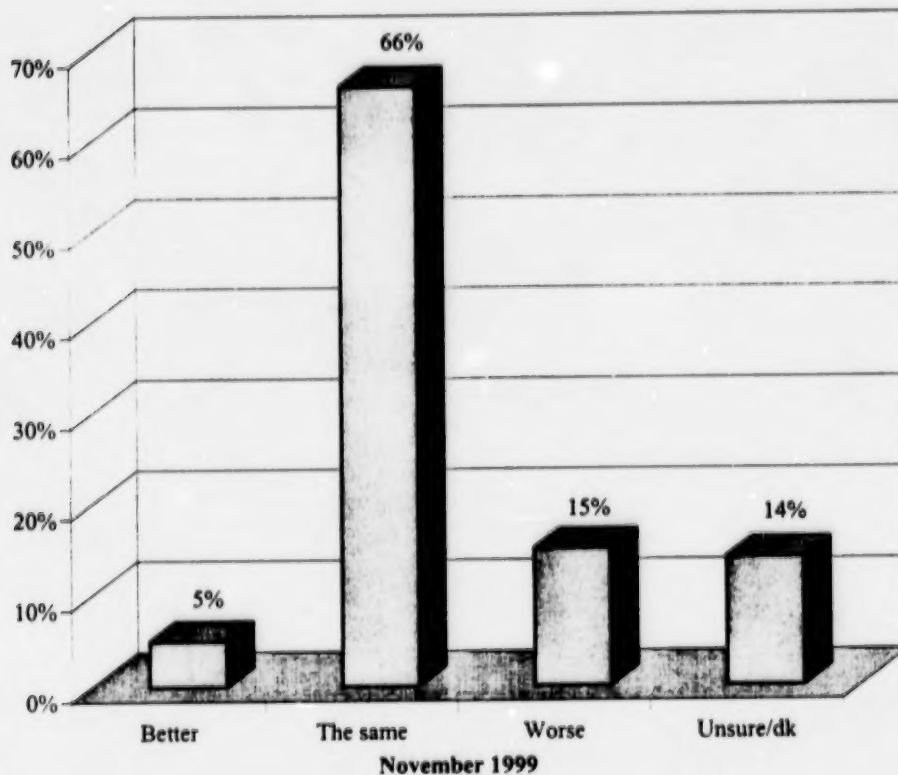
Question 3. What do you believe is the most important issue the newly elected government of Saskatchewan should be focussing on in the next twelve months?



- Almost one third (29%) of Saskatchewan residents think the most important issue the newly elected provincial government should be focussing on in the next twelve months is agriculture. Approximately 21% of residents suggest health care is the most important issue to focus on, 17% suggest taxes, 7% say jobs and unemployment, 4% education, 3% the provincial deficit and accumulated debt and 3% the economy.
- 'Other' issues identified by 11% of respondents are the government in general (3%), highways (2%) and social programs (1%).

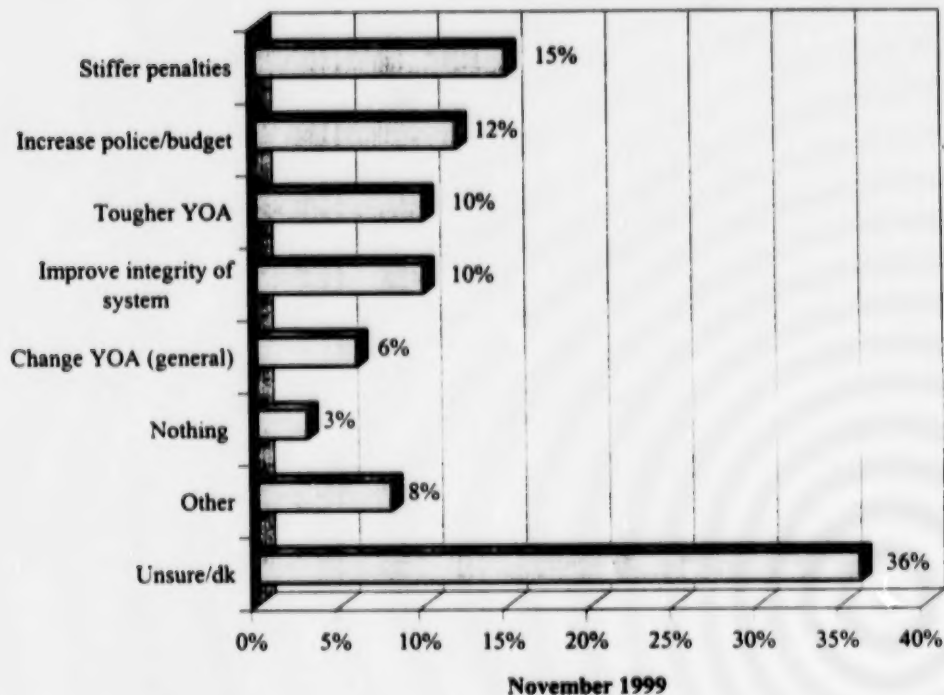
2.0 JUSTICE

Question 4. Compared to the rest of the country, do you think the justice system in Saskatchewan is better, the same or worse?



- More than two thirds (71%) of residents think the justice system in Saskatchewan is the same or better than that of the rest of the country.

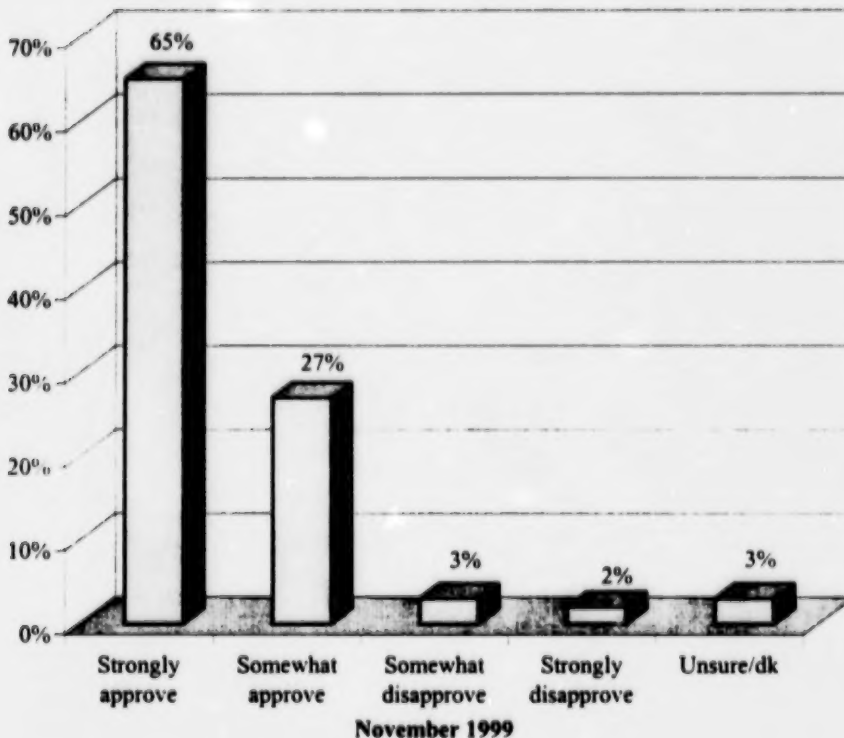
Question 5. What would you like to see changed about the way Saskatchewan's government manages policing and the justice system?



- Approximately 15% of Saskatchewan residents would like stiffer penalties for offenders as one thing to change in the justice system, and 12% would like the government to increase the budget to hire more police. About 10% would like to see the Young Offenders Act toughened with stronger penalties to young offenders and 10% mention improving the integrity of the justice system.
- About 8% of respondents mention 'other' changes they would like to see in the justice system, such as more funding to all areas of the justice system (1%), more attention spent on Native issues (1%), reducing the risk of crime (1%), and increasing communications with the community (1%).

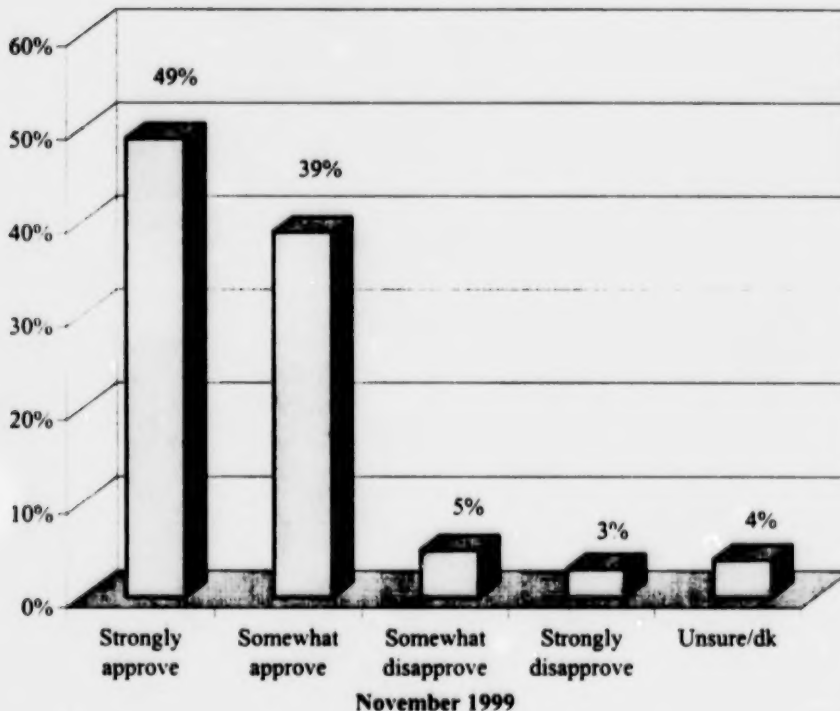
I am going to outline some of the changes the government is making to the justice system. I'd like you to tell me if you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove of the following initiatives:

Question 6a. The government has targeted funds to set up a program called the "Serious and Habitual Youth Offender Comprehensive Action Program". It's a partnership between police and prosecutors aimed at identifying the minority of young offenders who commit most of the crimes, tracking them, and getting them off the streets.



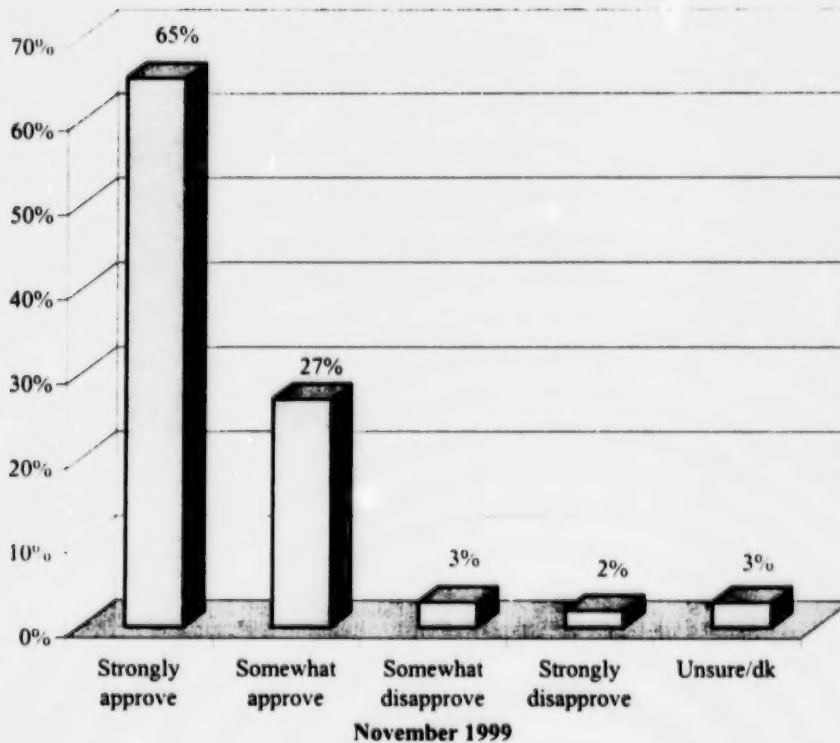
- The vast majority of residents (92%) approve of targeting funds to set up a program called the "Serious and Habitual Youth Offender Comprehensive Action Program".

Question 6b. The government has targeted funds to strengthen the prosecutions branch of the justice department by hiring more prosecutors and support staff so that trials take place more quickly, and prosecutors have more time to work on individual cases.



- The large majority of Saskatchewan residents (88%) approve of targeting funds to strengthen the prosecutions branch of the justice department by hiring more prosecutors and support staff.

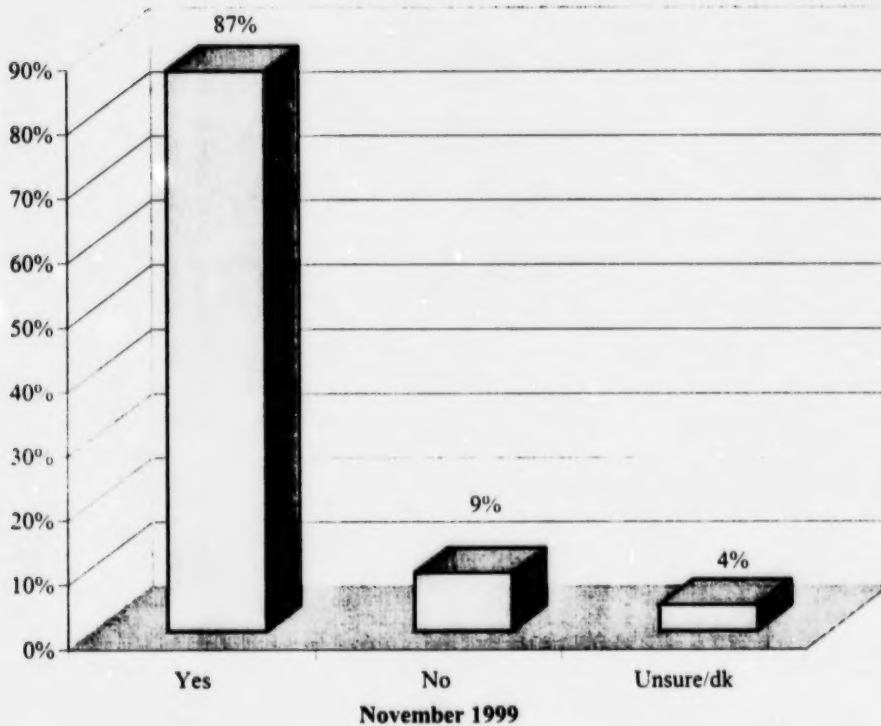
Question 6c. The government has launched a "serious crimes task force" to fight crimes like the drug and sex trade, child pornography, and money laundering committed by organized groups like motorcycle gangs. The task force brings together the RCMP, city police forces, and a special prosecution team.



- The large majority of Saskatchewan residents (92%) approve of the launch of a "serious crimes task force" to fight crimes like the drug and sex trade, child pornography, and money laundering by organized groups.

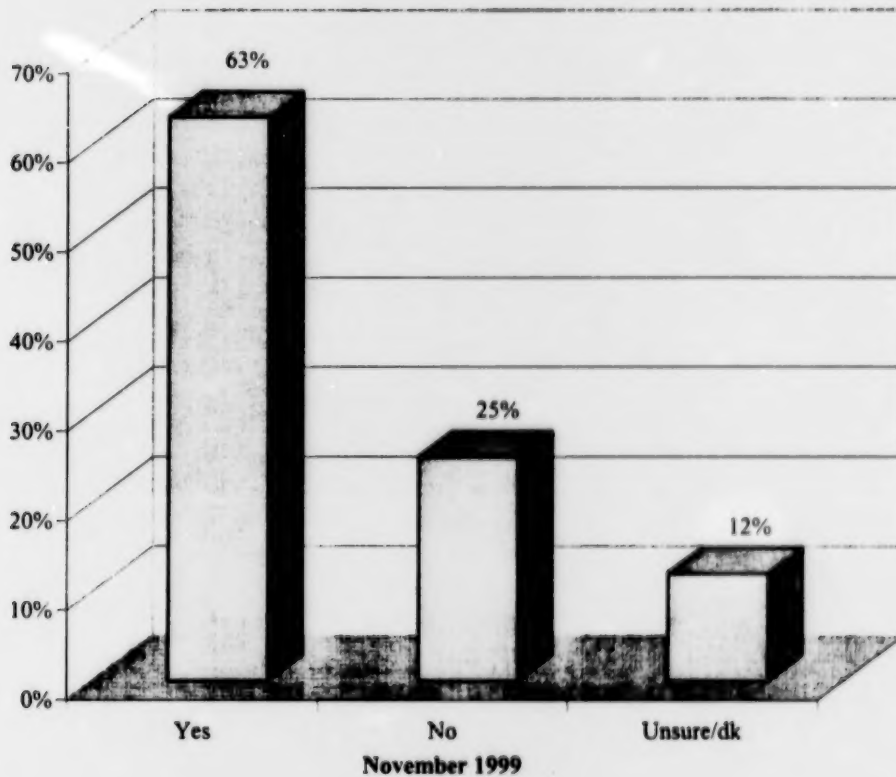
3.0 FAMILY VIOLENCE

Question 7. Is violence within the family, in other words, physical, financial or sexual abuse of another family member, an important public issue in your view?



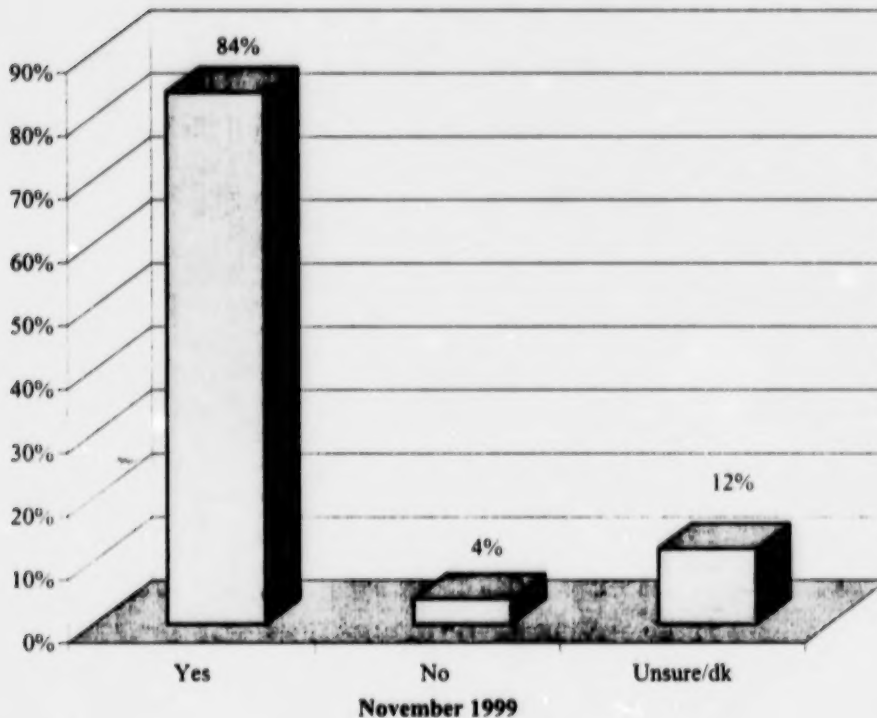
- The large majority of residents (87%) consider violence within the family an important public issue.

Question 8. Do you think the public at large believes that violence within the family is an important public issue to Saskatchewan people?



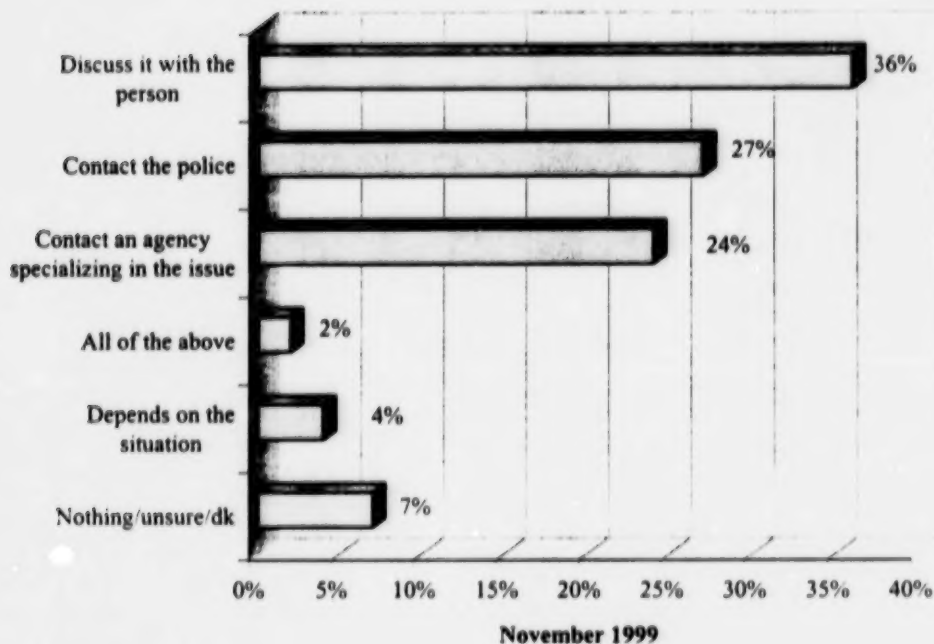
- The majority (63%) think the public at large believes that violence within the family is an important public issue to Saskatchewan people.

Question 9. Do you think acts of violence within the family are criminal actions and should be subject to the laying of charges by police?



- The large majority (84%) of residents think acts of violence within the family should be subject to the laying of charges by police.

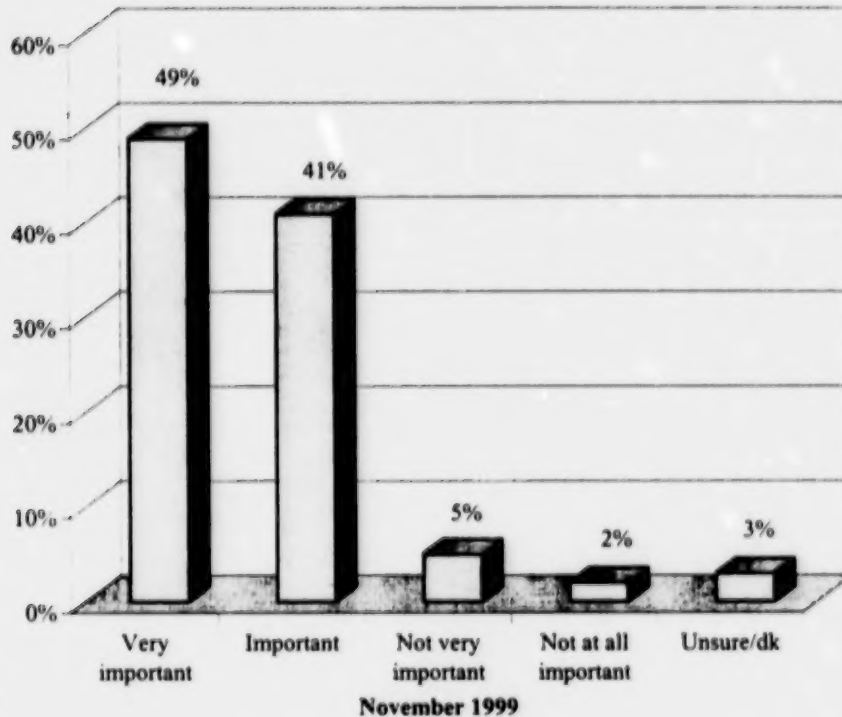
Question 10. What action would you take if you knew that a friend, neighbour or family member was involved in an act of violence within the family?



- More than one third (36%) of Saskatchewan residents indicate they would discuss it with the person if they knew that a friend, neighbour or family member was involved in an act of violence within their family. More than one quarter (27%) say they would contact the police and 24% indicate they would contact an agency that specializes in the issue.

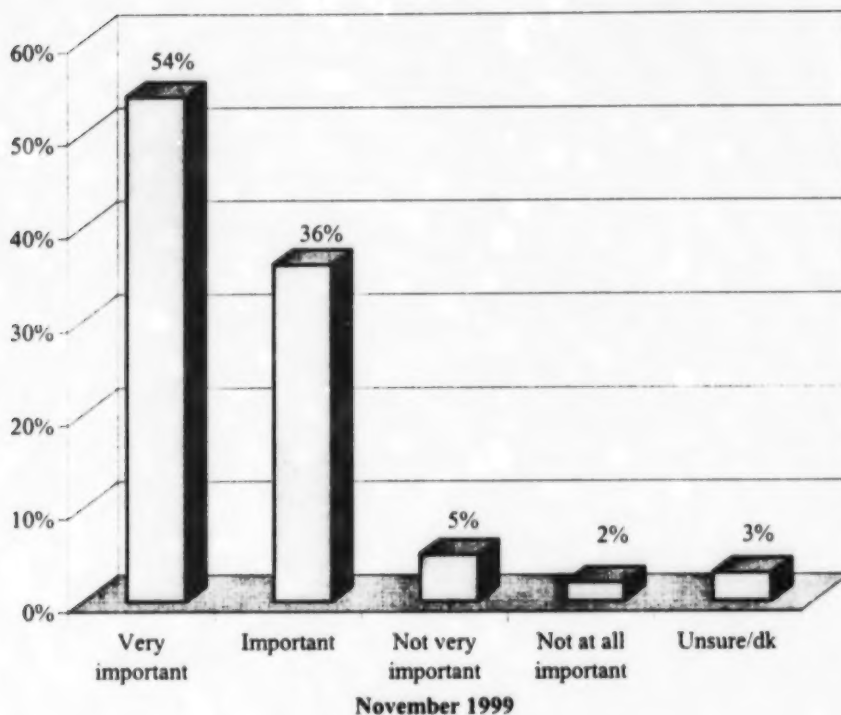
I'm going to outline some of the things government can do about family violence. For each, I'd like you to tell me if you think it is very important, important, not very important, or not at all important that the government take the action.

Question 11a. Intervene in family violence situations through front line services, crises lines or other support services for victims.



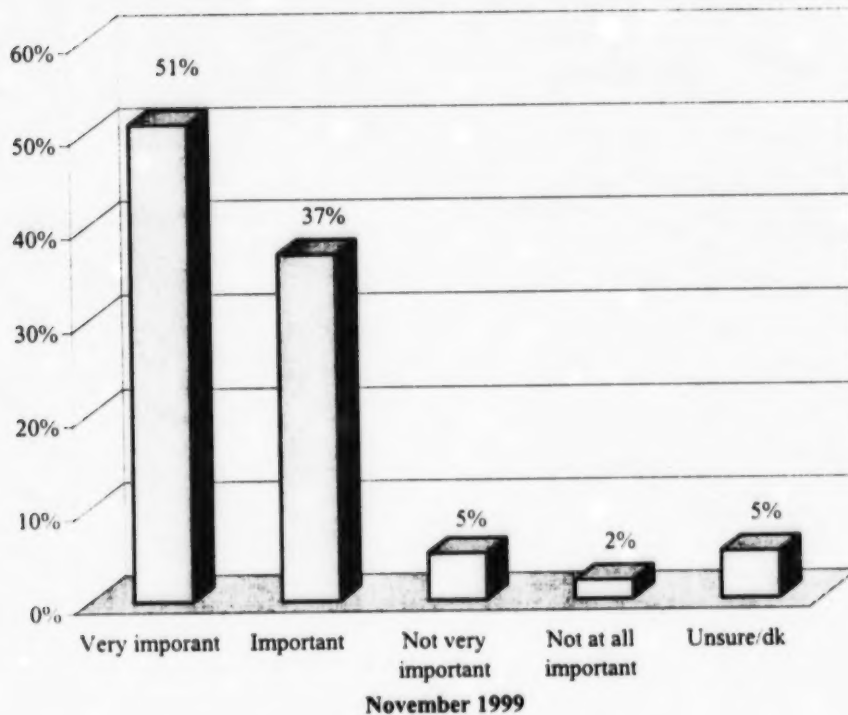
- The large majority (90%) think it is important that the government intervenes in family violence situations through front line services, crisis lines or other support services for victims of family violence.

Question 11b. Try to prevent family violence through effects like violence prevention education in schools.



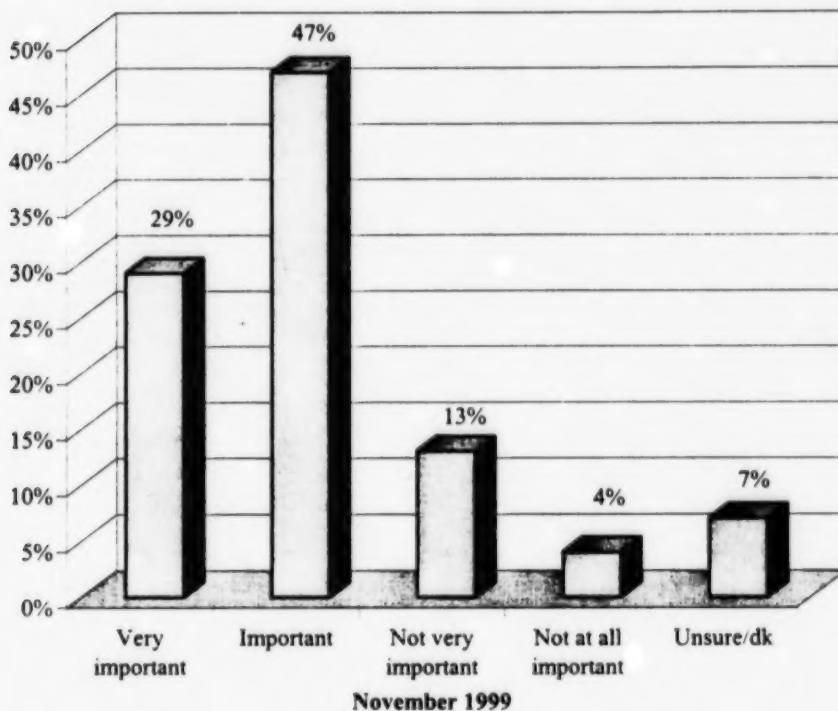
- The large majority (90%) of Saskatchewan residents think it is important that the government tries to prevent family violence through effects like violence prevention education in schools.

Question 11c. Set up programs aimed at helping abusers change their behavior.



- The large majority (88%) think it is important that the government set up programs aimed at helping abusers change their behavior.

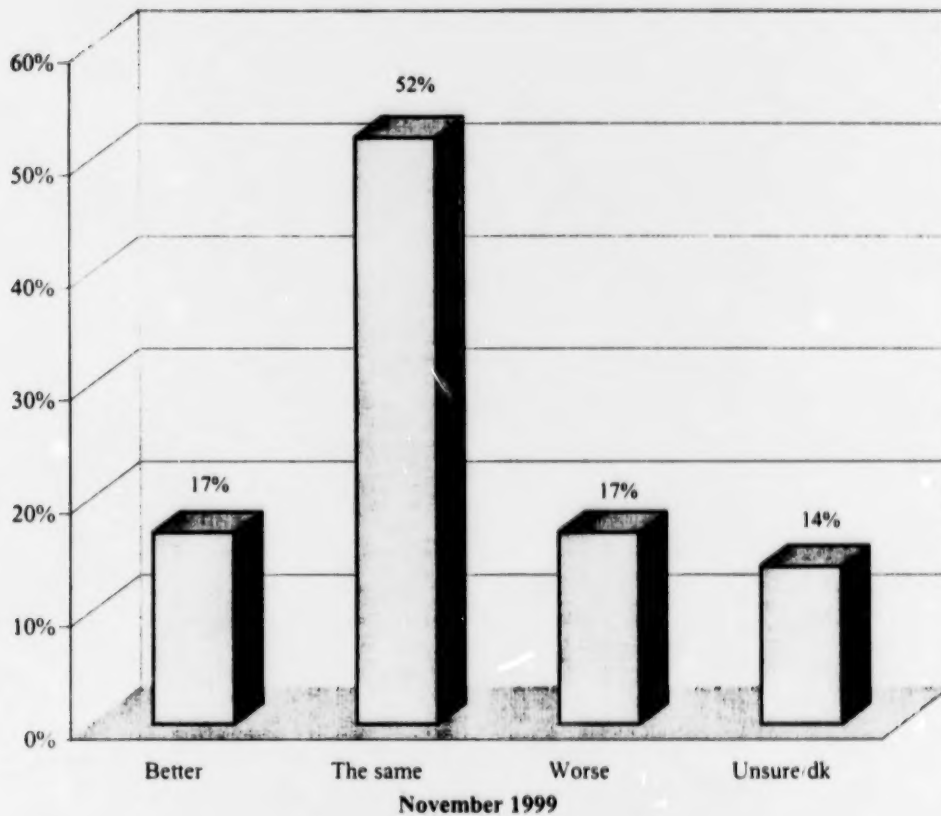
Question 11d. Take steps in increasing public awareness of the issue through things like posters, advertisements and pamphlets.



- More than three quarters (76%) of Saskatchewan residents think it is important that the government takes steps in increasing public awareness of the issue through things like posters, advertisements and pamphlets.

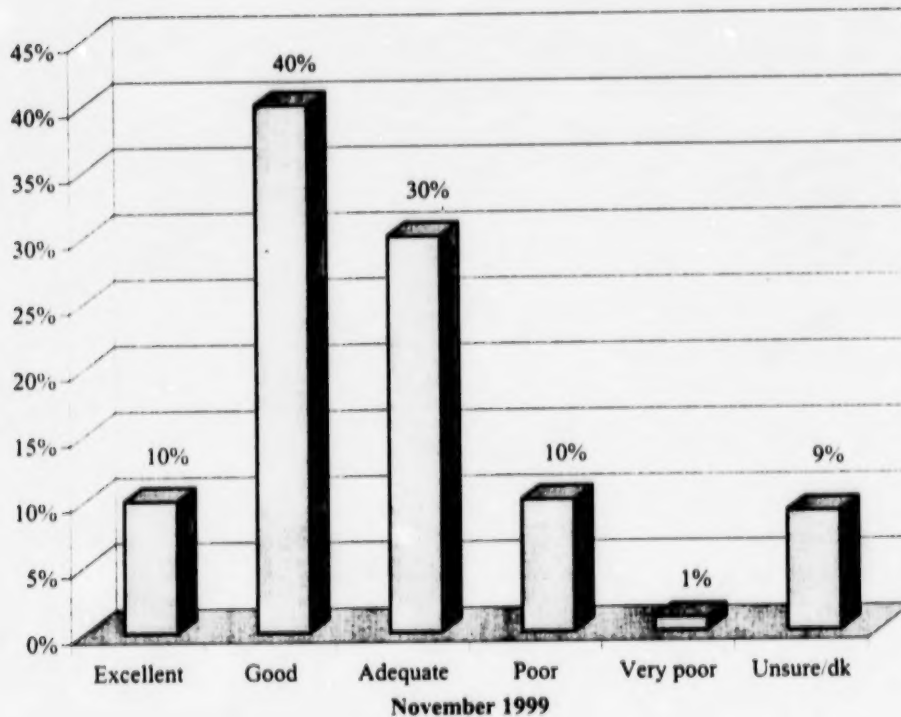
4.0 EDUCATION

Question 12. Compared to the rest of the country do you think the education system in Saskatchewan is better, the same or worse?



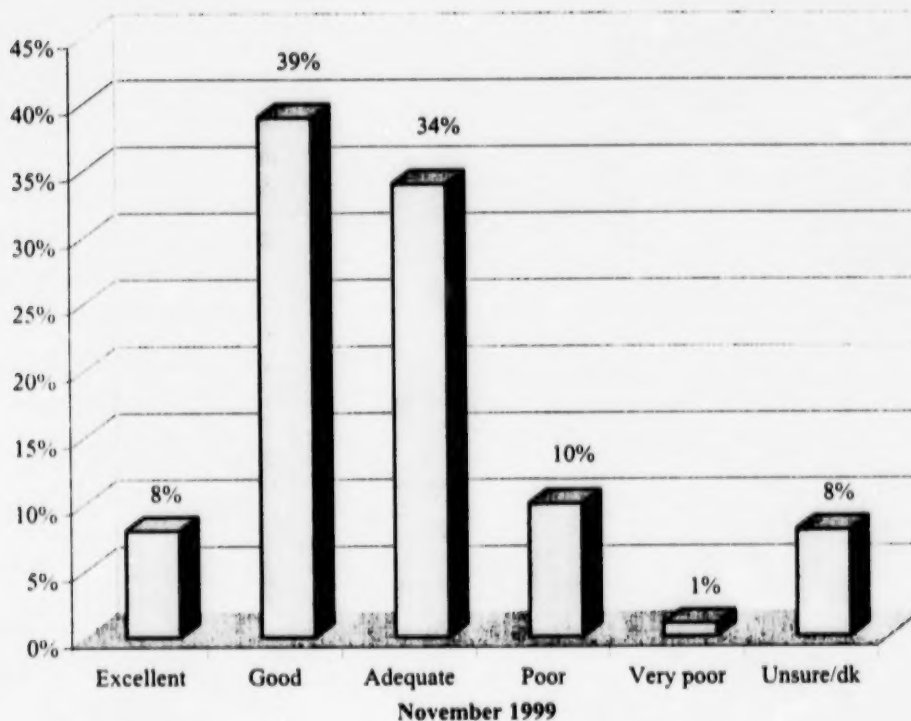
- More than two thirds (69%) of residents think the education system in Saskatchewan is the same or better than that of the rest of the country.

Question 13. Do you think the quality of elementary education in Saskatchewan is generally excellent, good, adequate, poor or very poor?



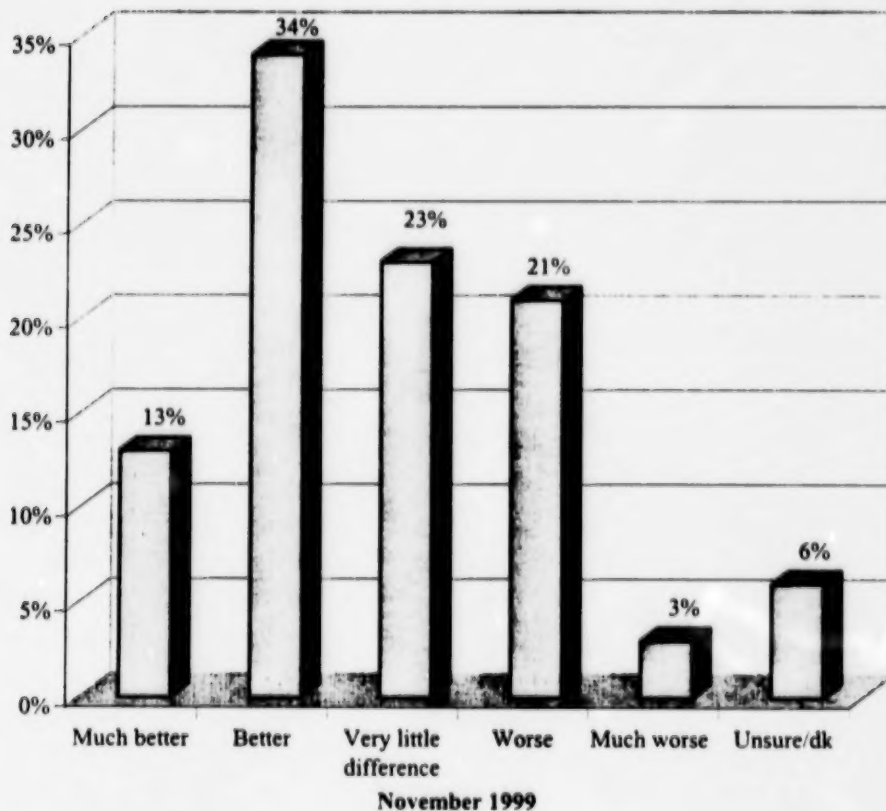
- The large majority (80%) of Saskatchewan residents think the quality of elementary education in Saskatchewan is adequate or better.

Question 14. Do you think that the quality of secondary or high school education in Saskatchewan is generally excellent, good, adequate, poor or very poor?



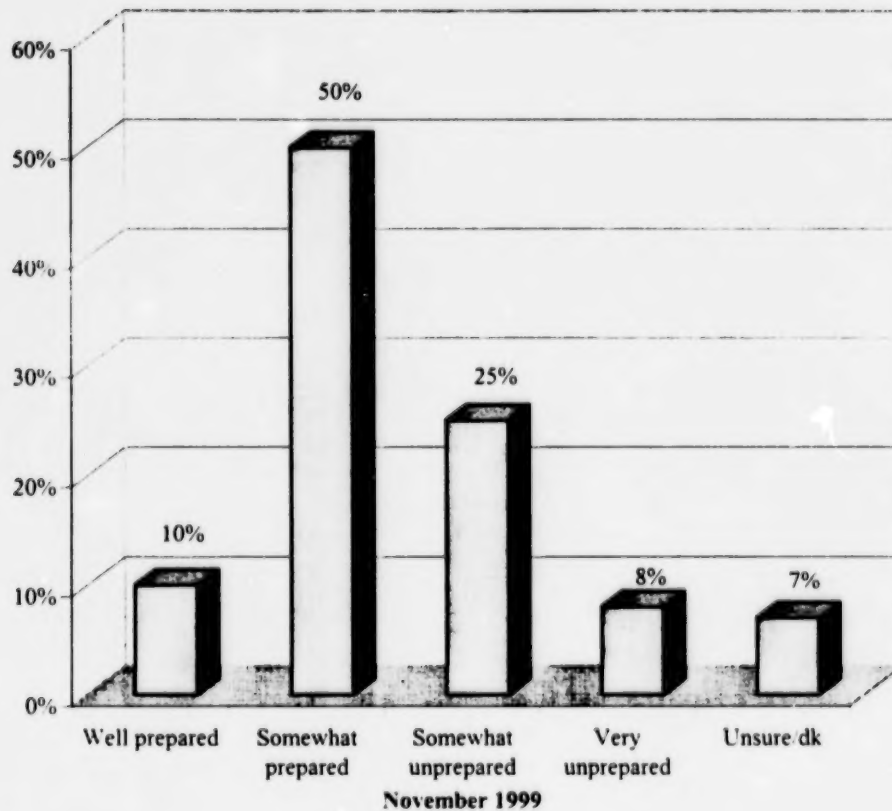
- The large majority (81%) think the quality of secondary or high school in Saskatchewan is adequate or better.

Question 15. When you think of your own school education, do you believe students' education today is much better, better, worse, much worse or very little different compared to yours?



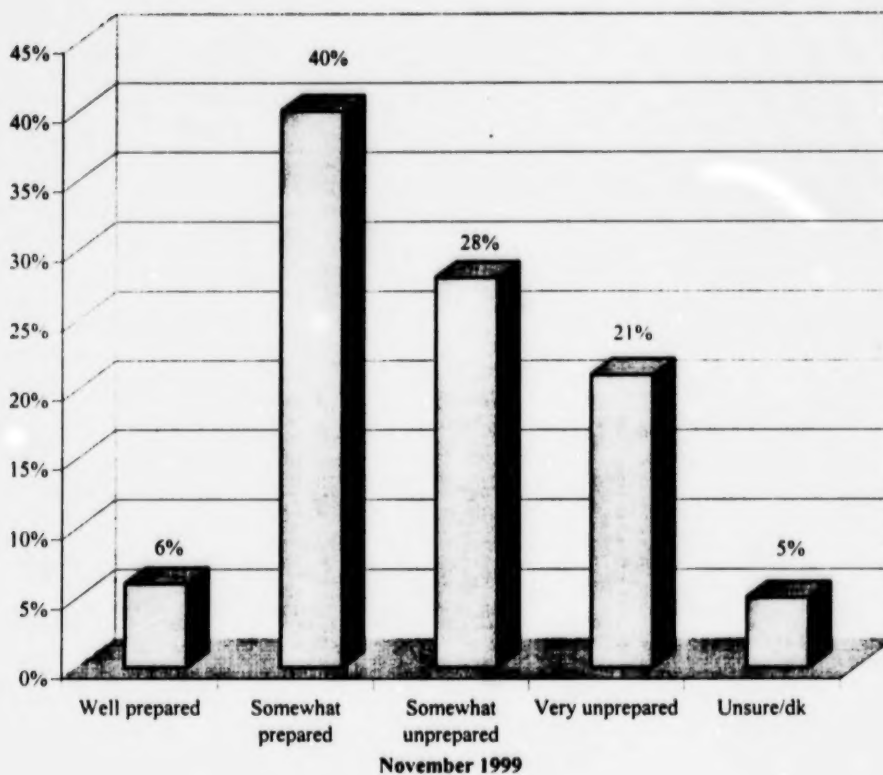
- Almost one half (47%) of Saskatchewan residents believe students' education today is better than the education they received; 23% believe there is very little difference.

Question 16. Which best describes how well prepared you think Saskatchewan high school students are for entering post-secondary institutions like colleges or universities? Do you think they are very well prepared, only somewhat prepared, somewhat unprepared or very unprepared?



- The majority (60%) of residents think Saskatchewan high school students are prepared for entering post-secondary institutions like colleges or universities.

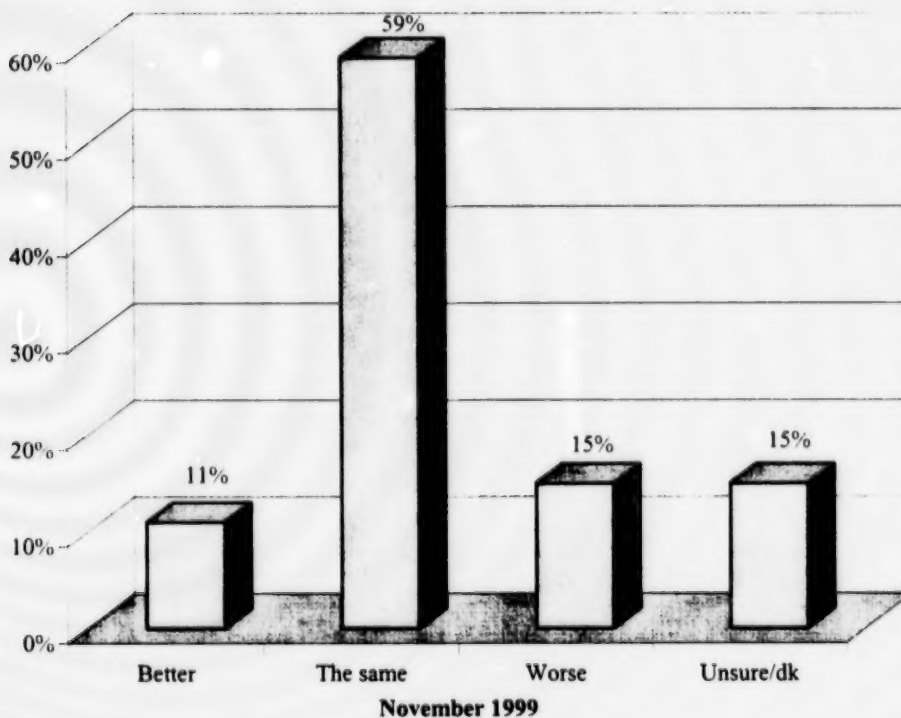
Question 17. How well prepared do you think high school students are for entering the workforce? Do you think they are very well prepared, only somewhat prepared, somewhat unprepared or very unprepared?



- Almost one half (46%) think Saskatchewan high school students are prepared for entering the workforce.

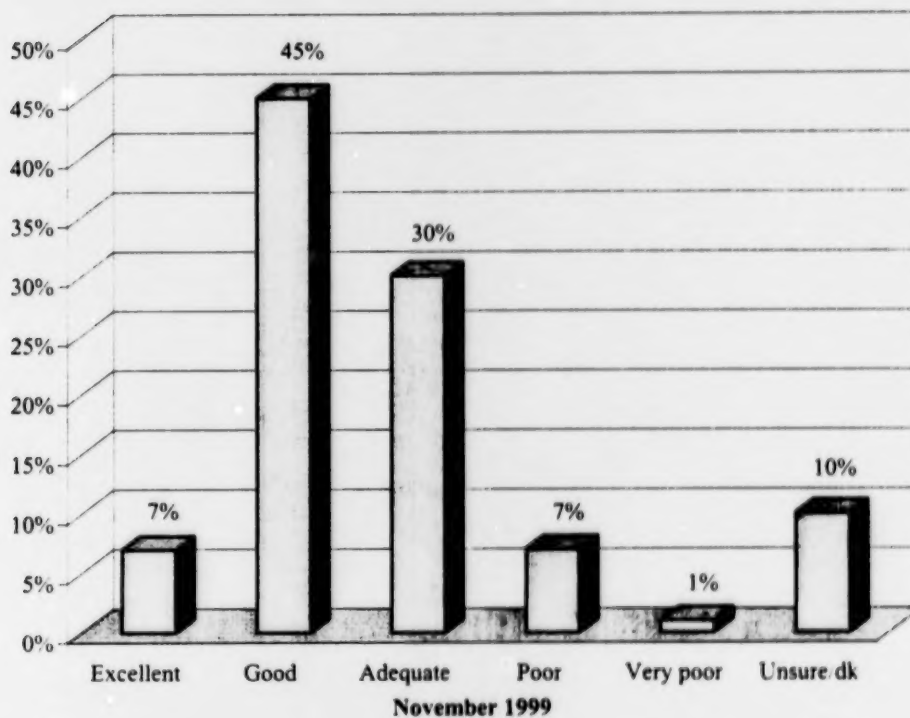
5.0 POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION & SKILLS TRAINING

Question 18. Compared to the rest of the country, do you think the post-secondary education and training system in Saskatchewan is better, the same or worse?



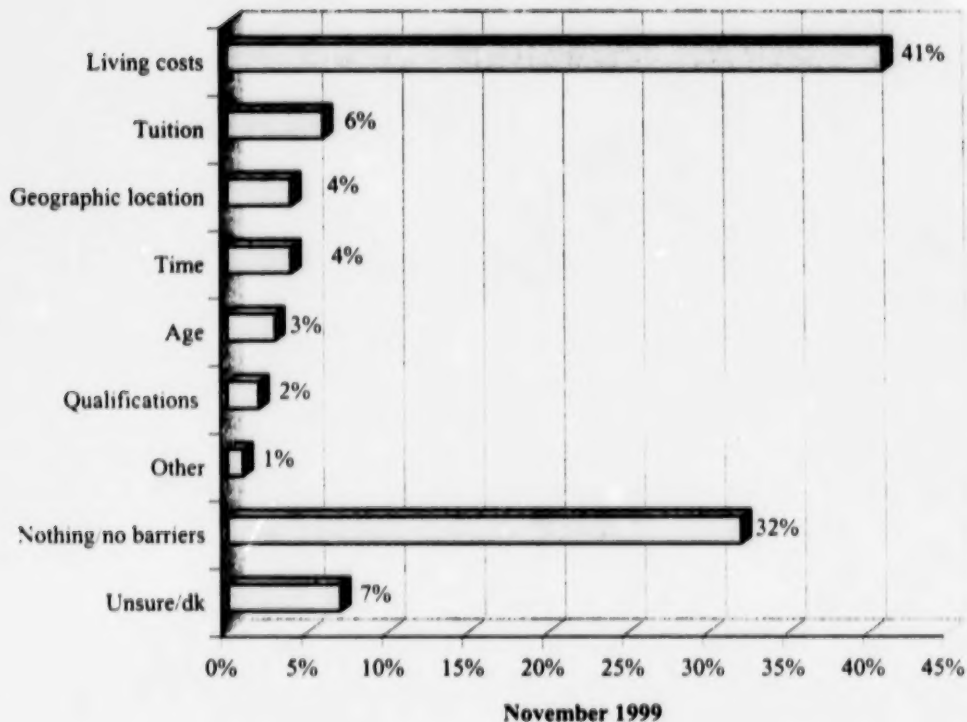
- The majority (70%) of residents think the post-secondary education and skills training system in Saskatchewan is the same or better than that of the rest of the country.

Question 19. Do you think the quality of Saskatchewan's training programs is generally excellent, good, poor or very poor?



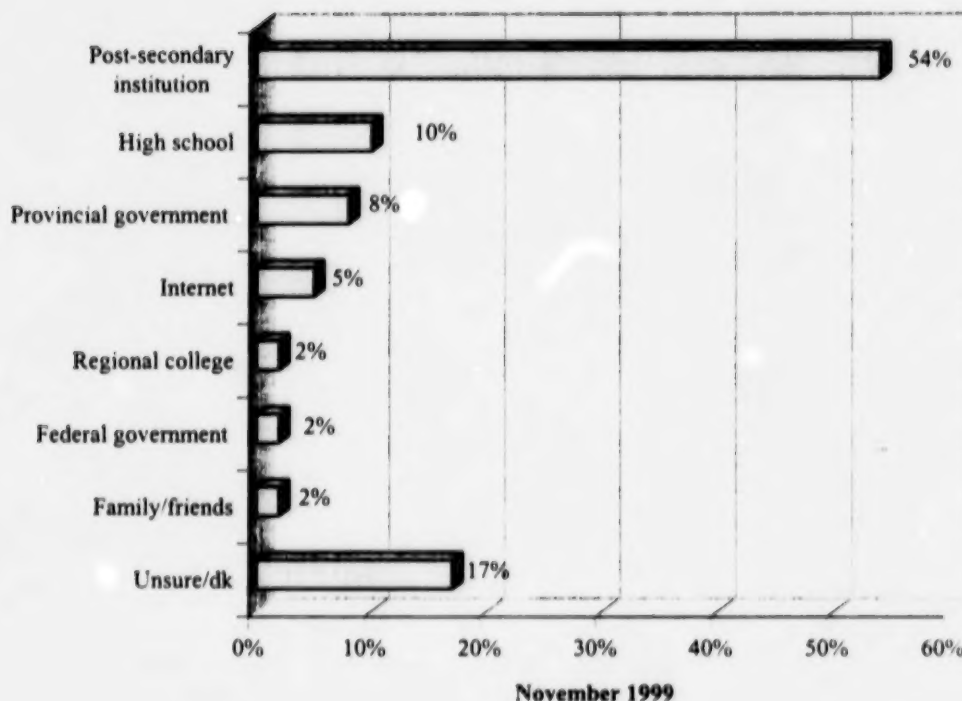
- The majority (82%) think the quality of Saskatchewan's training programs is adequate or better.

Question 20. What barriers do you or your family members experience which prevent you from taking post-secondary education or training?



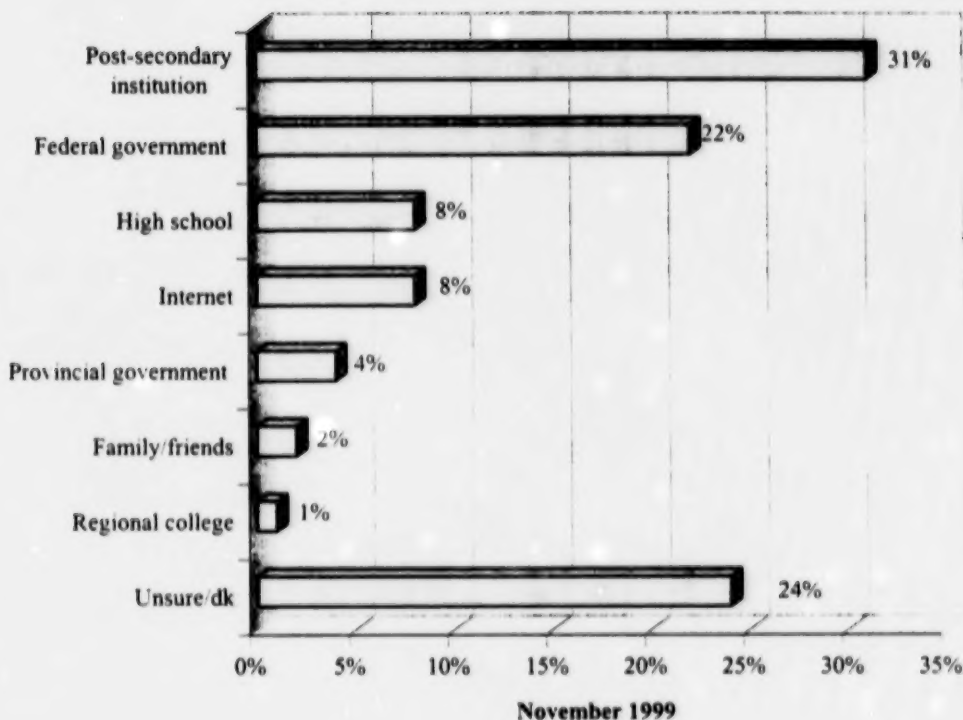
- Approximately 41% of Saskatchewan residents identify living costs as a barrier to post-secondary education or training for them or their family members; almost one third (32%) mention they or their family members do not experience any barriers.

Question 21. Where would you go to get information about post-secondary education and training opportunities in Saskatchewan?



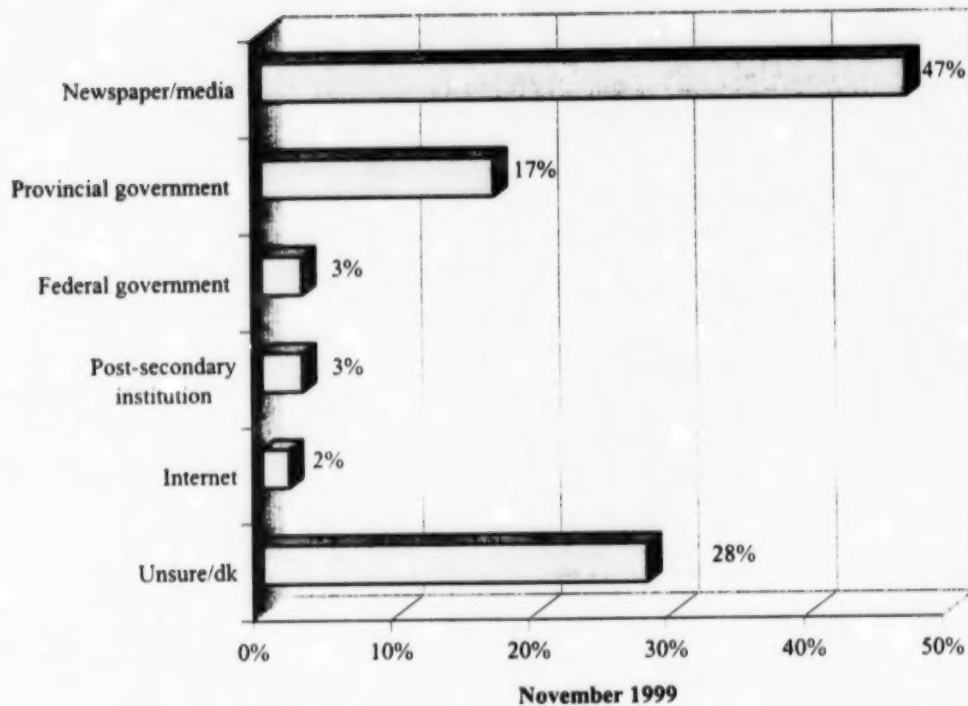
- The majority (54%) of residents would go to a post-secondary institution to get information about post-secondary education and training opportunities in Saskatchewan.

Question 22. Where would you go for career information?



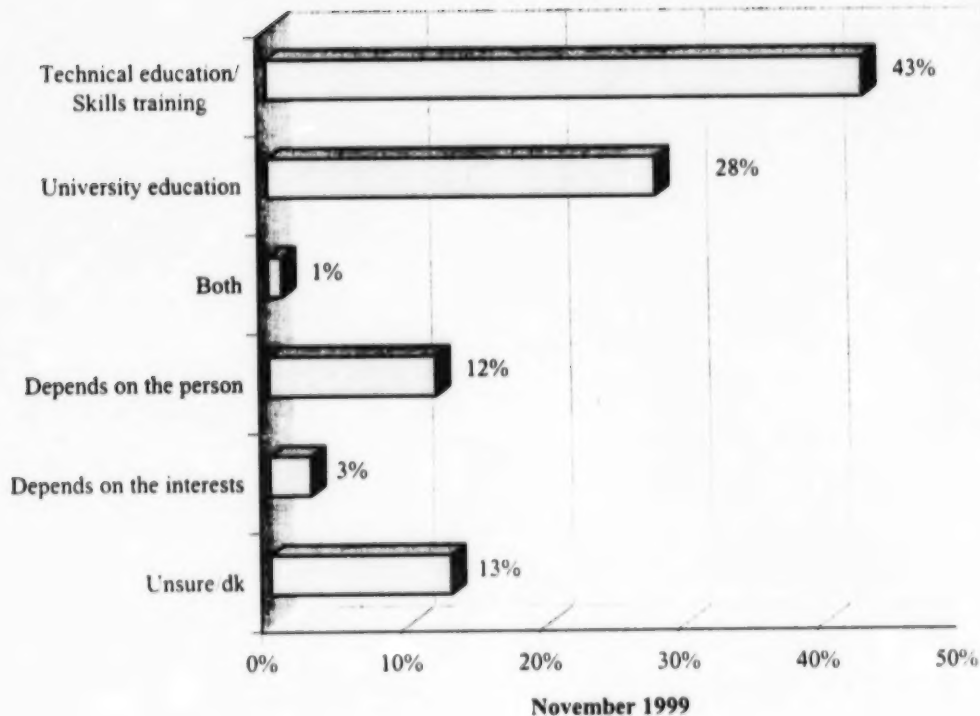
- Approximately one third (31%) of Saskatchewan residents would go to a post-secondary institution to get career information; approximately 22% would look to the federal government.

Question 23. Where would you go for information about job opportunities or to find workers?



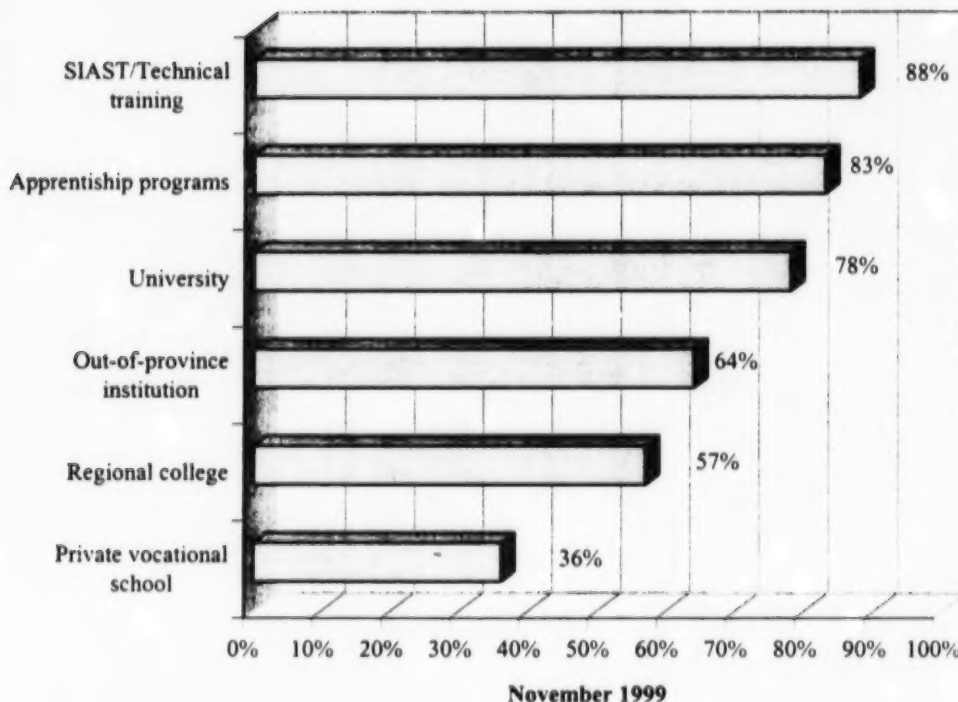
- Almost one half (47%) of residents would go to the newspaper or media sources for information about job opportunities or to find workers.

Question 24. If you were advising a young person today, would you recommend they choose technical education and skills training or a university education?



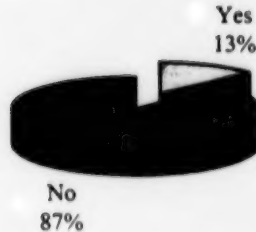
- Approximately 43% of Saskatchewan residents would recommend technical education and skills training if they were advising a young person today; 28% would recommend a university education.

Question 25. Which institution would you suggest they attend? Would you recommend...?



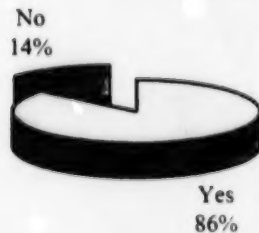
- The majority of Saskatchewan residents would recommend SIAST or technical training (88%), apprenticeship programs (83%), university (78%), an out-of-province institution (64%), and a regional college (57%).

Question 26a. In the past month have you taken post-secondary education or training?



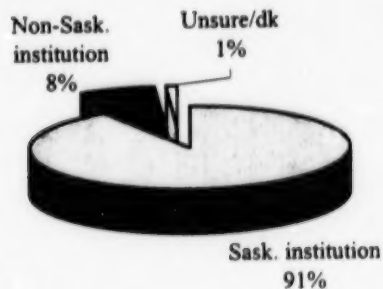
- The majority of Saskatchewan residents (87%) have not taken post-secondary education or training in the past month; about 13% have.

Question 26b. Was this education or training in person?



- Of those residents who have taken post-secondary training and education in the past month, the large majority (86%, or 11% of all respondents) took the education or training in person.

Question 26c. Was this education at a Saskatchewan institution or a non-Saskatchewan institution?



- Of those respondents who have taking education or training in the past month *in person*, the large majority (91%, or 10% of all respondents) did so through a Saskatchewan institution.

Question 26d. Was this education or training by distance education including the Internet?



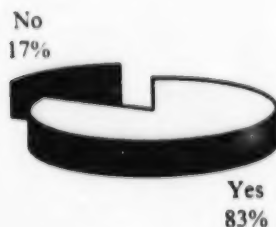
- Of those respondents who have taking education or training in the past month but *not* in person, the majority (56%, or 1% of all respondents) did so through distance education, which includes the Internet.

Question 26e. Was this education at a Saskatchewan institution or a non-Saskatchewan institution?



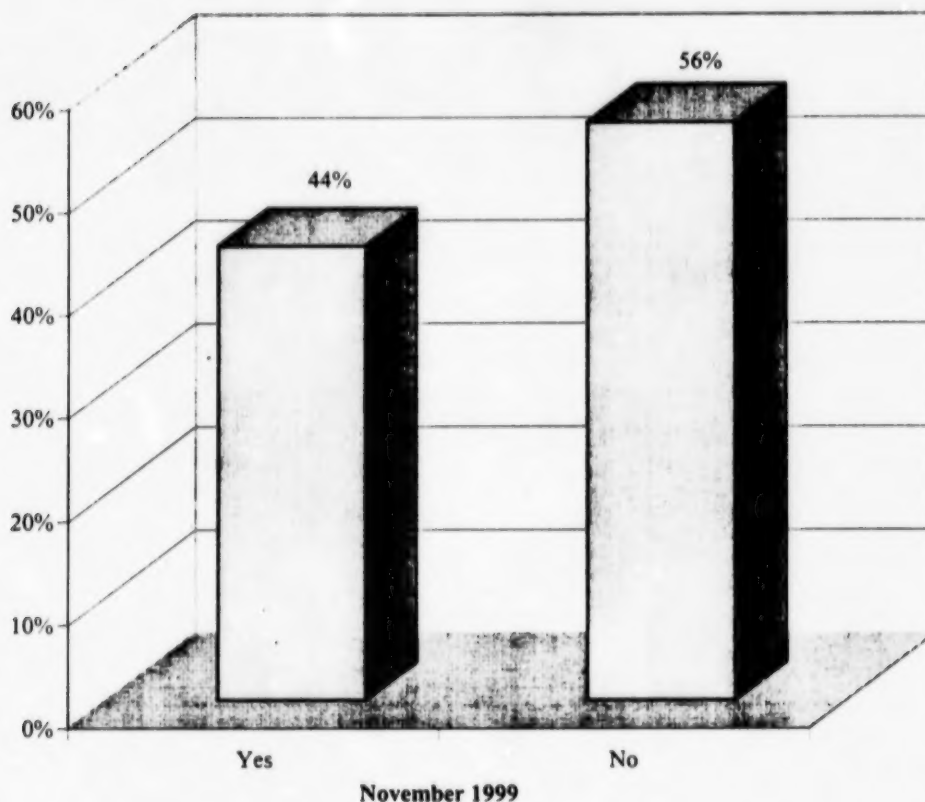
- Of those respondents who took education or training by distance education, approximately 40% (or less than 1% of all respondents) took the education from a Saskatchewan institution.

Question 26f. Was this education towards a degree or certificate?



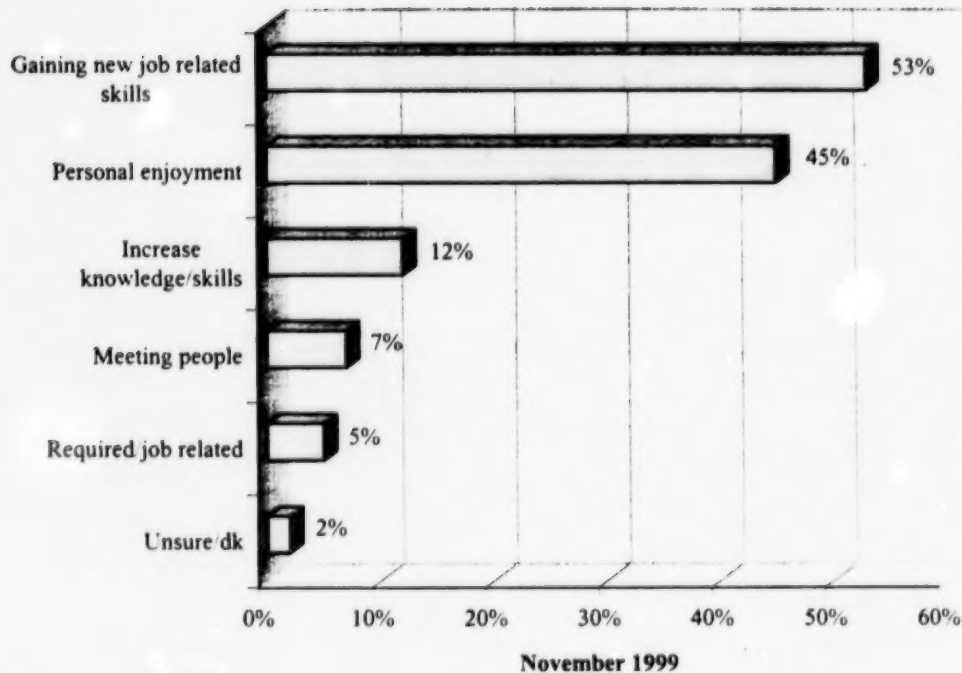
- Of those respondents who took education or training in the past month, the large majority (83%, or 10% of all respondents) indicate it was toward a degree or certificate.

Question 27. In the past month have you participated in informal education or training such as attending public lectures or reading self-help books?



- Almost one half (44%) of Saskatchewan residents have participated in informal education or training in the past month.

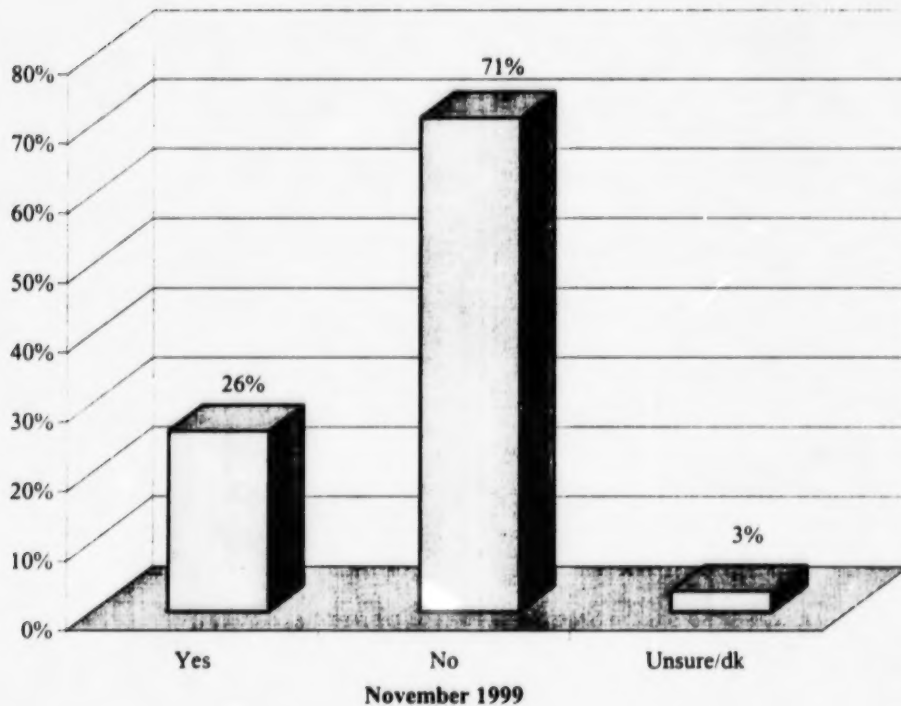
Question 28. What were the primary reasons for your participation?



- Of those respondents who have participated in informal education or training in the past month, the majority (53%) did so to gain new job related skills while 45% did so for personal enjoyment.

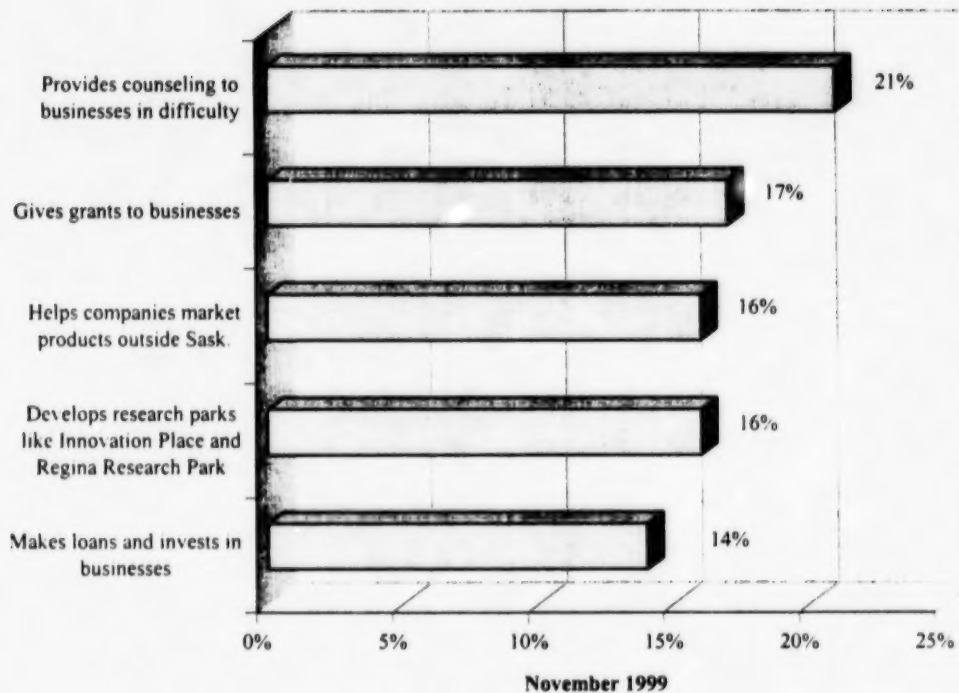
6.0 SASKATCHEWAN OPPORTUNITIES CORPORATION

Question 29. Have you ever heard of the Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation, usually called SOCO?



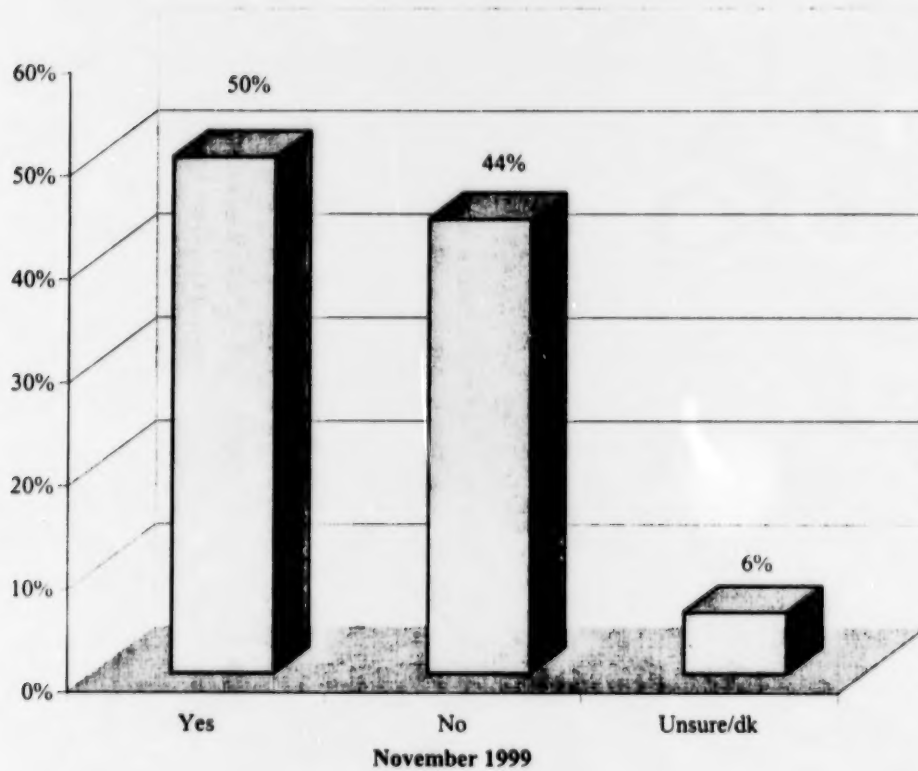
- Approximately one quarter (26%) of Saskatchewan residents have heard of the Saskatchewan Opportunities Corporation.

Question 30. What does SOCO do? Do you think it...?



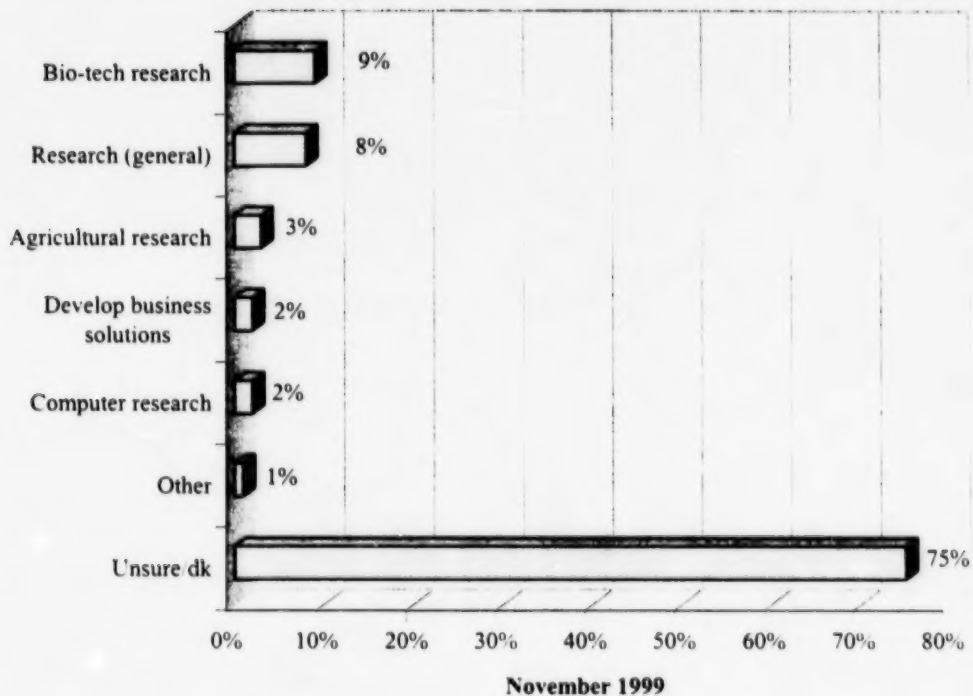
- About one fifth of residents think SOCO provides counseling to businesses in difficulty (21%). Approximately 17% think SOCO gives grants to businesses, helps companies market products outside the province (16%), develops research parks like Innovation Place and Regina Research Park (16%), and makes loans and invests in business (14%).

Question 31. Have you heard of Innovation Place or the Regina Research Park?



- One half (50%) of Saskatchewan residents have heard of Innovation Place or the Regina Research Park.

Question 32. Can you name one thing they do at either Innovation Place or the Regina Research Park?



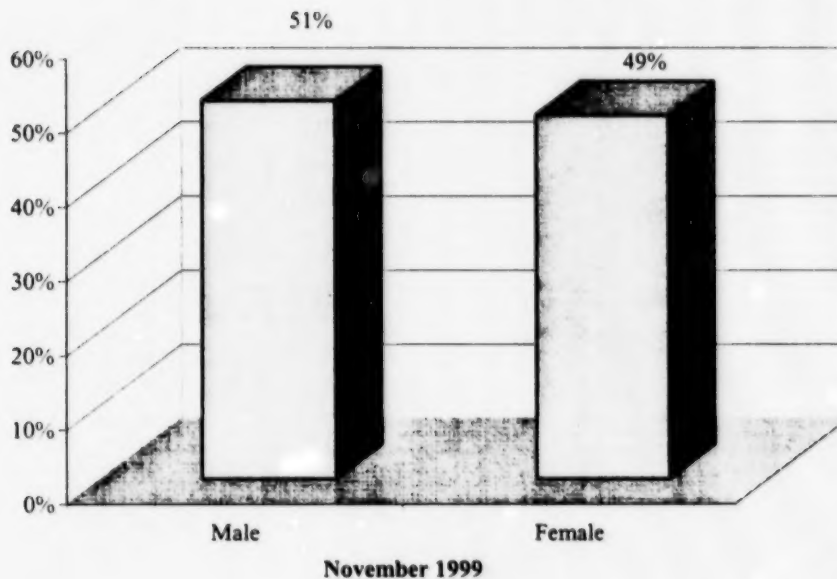
- Three quarters (75%) of residents are unable to identify what is done at either Innovation Place or Regina Research Park. Approximately one in ten respondents mention bio-tech research (9%) and research in general (8%).

APPENDIX II SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

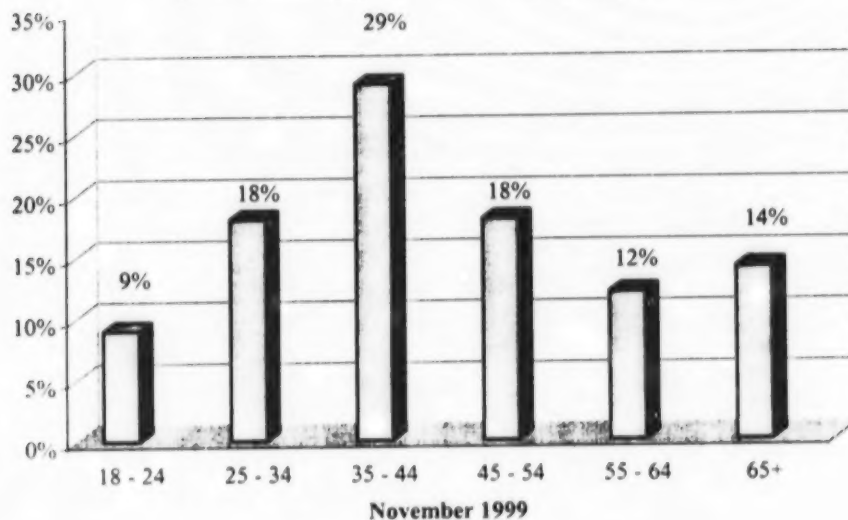
The omnibus public opinion sample frame is constructed to facilitate proportionate representation of various demographic characteristics evident within the province of Saskatchewan. This ensures that opinions of all the various types of residents in Saskatchewan are proportionately represented in the statistical measurements documented in this report. The demographic distributions from the survey sample generally parallel the province's actual population distributions, as measured by Statistics Canada census data.

The omnibus survey sample size of 1,000 people yields public opinion measurements with a statistical level of confidence of 95 percent within an overall margin of error for the point estimates contained in this report of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

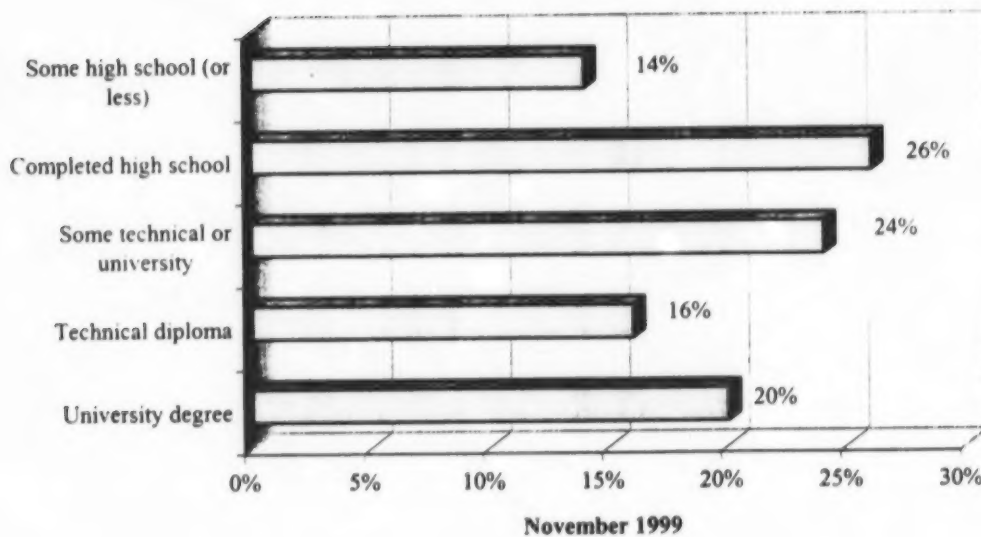
Survey sample gender distribution



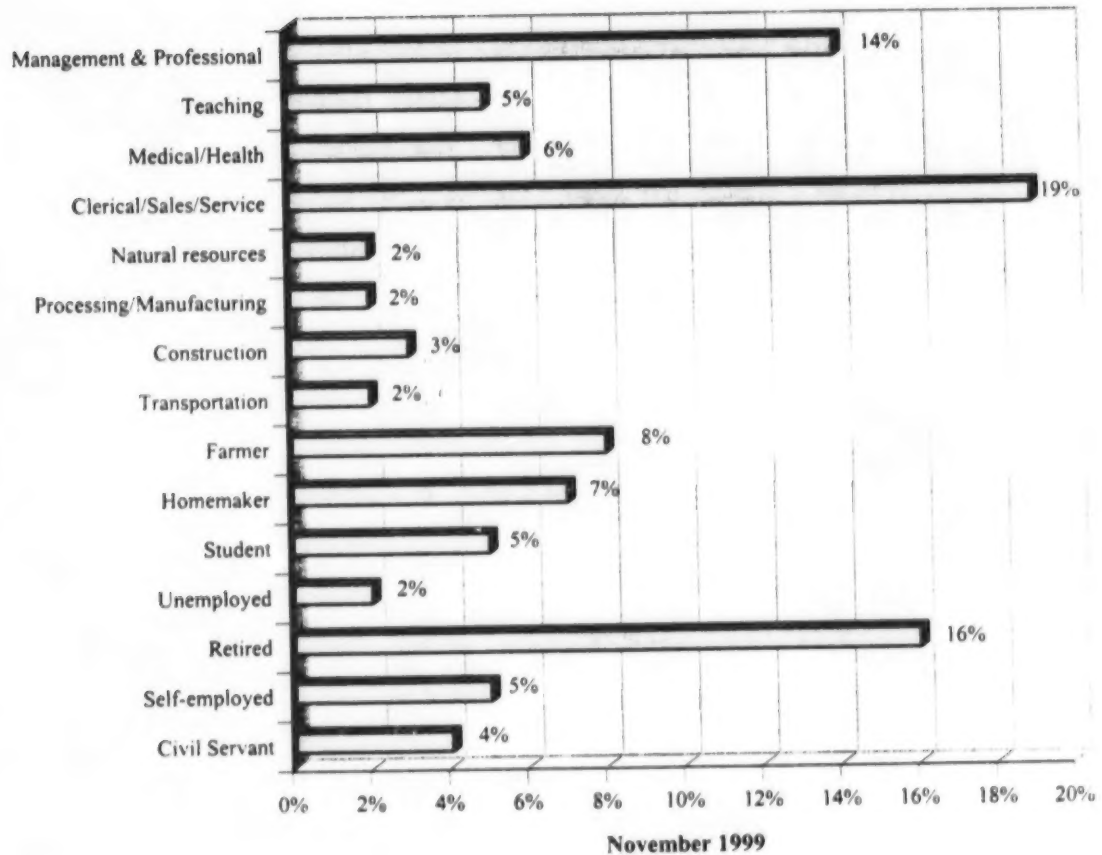
Survey sample age distribution



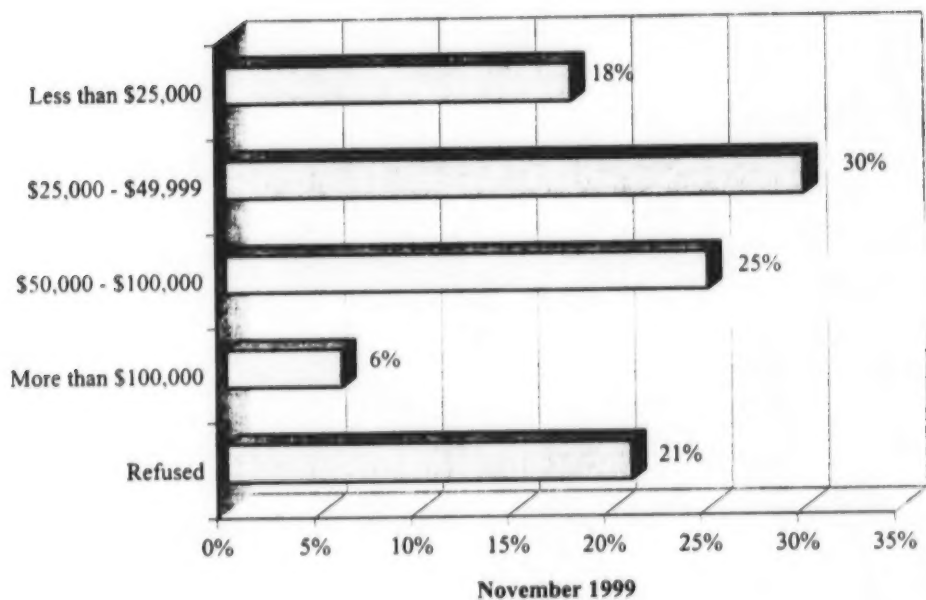
Survey sample education distribution



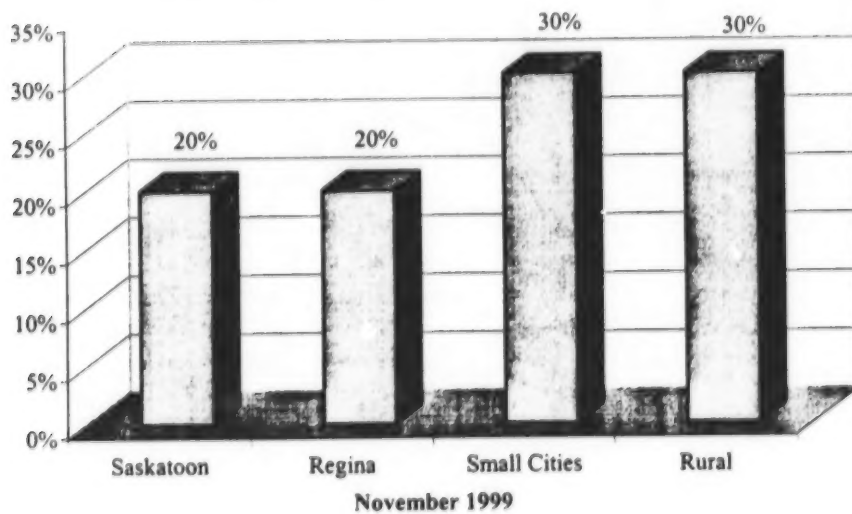
Survey sample occupation distribution



Survey sample income distribution



Survey sample regional distribution



Department/Crown commissioning the work:

Executive Council

Date: **December, 1999**

Supplier: **Anderson/Fast & Associates,
Saskatoon**

Cost: **\$18,400**

Note: Six budget-related questions are being withheld at this time and will be released with a quarterly release post-Budget

**Omnibus
Provincial Public Opinion Survey**

Prepared for:

**Saskatchewan Executive Council
113 Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4S 0B3**

Submitted by:

**Anderson/Fast & Associates
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December 1999

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APPENDIX I SURVEY INSTRUMENT

APPENDIX II SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Federal issues that Saskatchewan residents tend to be most concerned with include federal taxes, agriculture, health care, and national unity.
- Provincial issues that Saskatchewan residents tend to be most concerned with include agriculture, health care, provincial taxes, and jobs and unemployment.
- Approximately two thirds of Saskatchewan residents approve of how the provincial government is handling the policing of communities.
- About one half of residents think the farm crisis is extremely severe, approaching disaster proportions, with conditions close to what they were in the Dirty 30's.
- Approximately three quarters of Saskatchewan residents agree that the farm crisis has a significant effect on the whole provincial economy.
- The majority of residents think the main cause of the farm crisis is low prices due to unfair subsidies.

METHODOLOGY

Anderson/Fast & Associates was retained by the Government of Saskatchewan to conduct the December 1999 public opinion survey with a representative sample of the Saskatchewan population. The December Omnibus Survey contains questions designed to explore public opinion regarding:

- federal issues of importance to Saskatchewan residents;
- provincial issues of importance to Saskatchewan residents;
- the justice system;
- taxes;
- agriculture;
- the economy; and
- the "Share the Warmth" campaign.

The questions for the survey were provided by Saskatchewan Executive Council and assembled into an interview format by Anderson/Fast. The questionnaire was pre-tested to ensure that all of the questions being asked in the interview were understood by the general public and the information being gathered addressed the public opinion research objectives.

The sample frame for this public opinion research survey was constructed to obtain complete interviews from a random sample of 1,000 households throughout Saskatchewan. To ensure proportionate representation from all areas of Saskatchewan, the province was divided into nine geographic sampling districts. Interview respondents were selected randomly from Saskatchewan telephone directories in each region using standard polling practices to ensure random selection of households and respondents. The sampling frame was also constructed to ensure proportionate representation of other important demographic characteristics evident within the provincial population such as gender, age, occupation, level of education and level of household income. This ensures that the opinions of all the various types of people who reside in Saskatchewan are proportionately represented in the statistical measurements documented in this report.

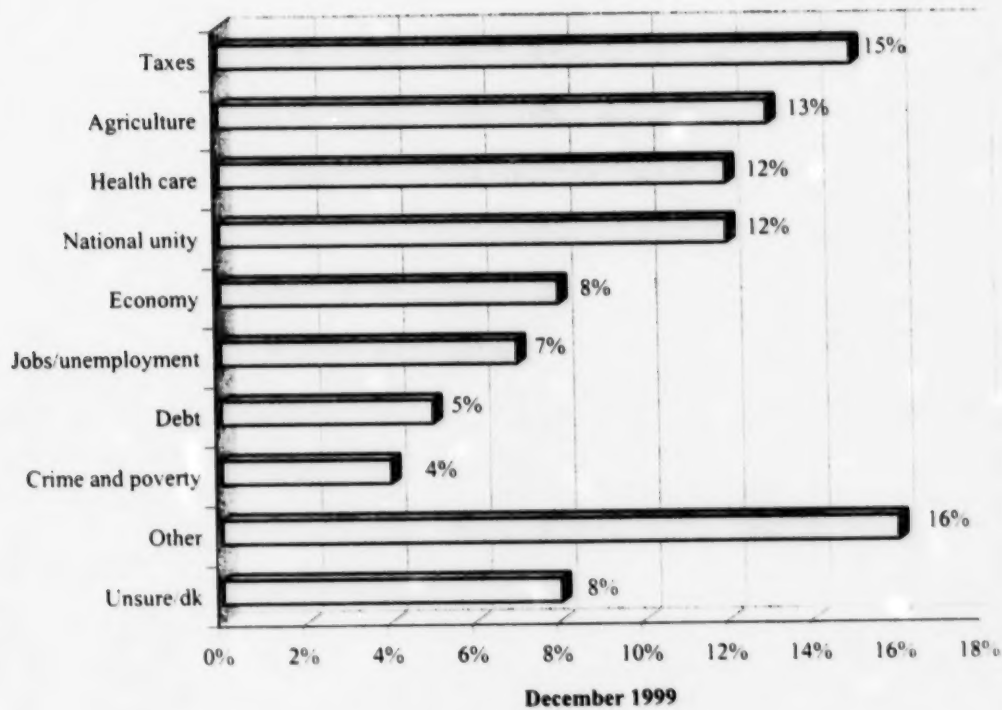
One thousand residents of the province were interviewed over a six day period between Monday, December 13 and Saturday, December 18, 1999. Interviews were conducted by telephone at times that were appropriate and convenient for respondents - weekdays between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. and weekends between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. All interviews were conducted by Anderson/Fast's in-house public opinion interviewers using our *Computer Aided Telephone Interviewing* (CATI) call centre.

The Omnibus survey sample size of 1,000 people yields public opinion measurements with a statistical level of confidence of 95 percent within an overall margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points: reliable results with low variability. Frequency charts for all public opinion issues are illustrated in this report.

Anderson/Fast designed and implemented programs to facilitate the statistical analysis using the industry standard SPSS computer program (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). Data checking procedures were utilized at all times to ensure accuracy of the data. We also conducted statistical tests on the demographics to check for reliability and validity of the survey data.

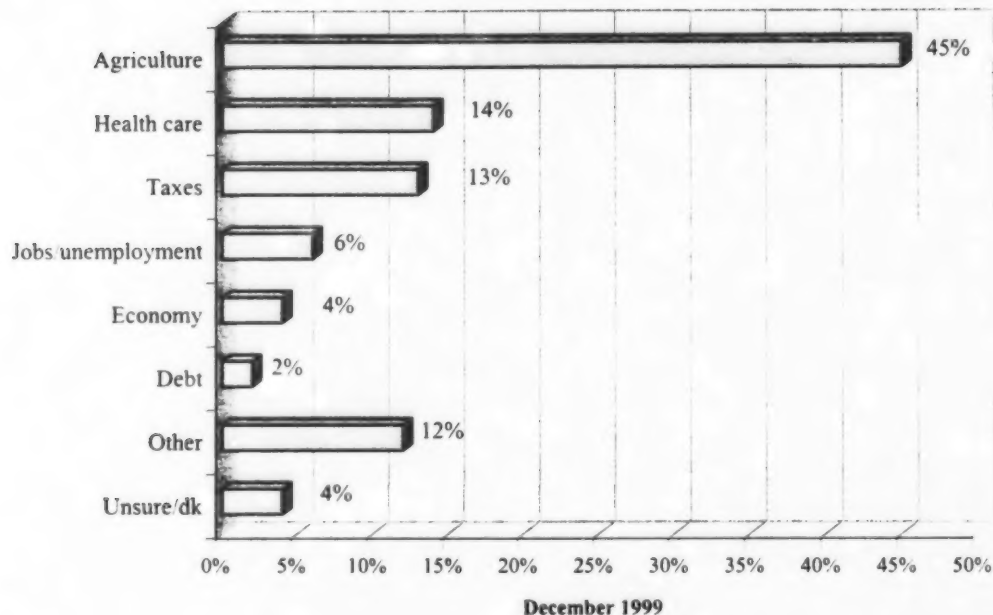
1.0 GENERAL ISSUES

Question 1. In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing Canada today?



- According to 15% of Saskatchewan residents, the most important issue facing Canada today is federal taxes, another 13% mention agriculture as the most important issue. Other important issues include health care (12%), national unity (12%), the economy (8%), jobs and unemployment (7%), national deficit and accumulated debt (5%), and crime and poverty (4%).
- Approximately 16% of respondents are primarily concerned with 'other' issues such as the federal government in general (3%), education (2%), moral, social and religious issues (1%), social programs and welfare issues (1%), Native issues (1%), and children and youth (1%).

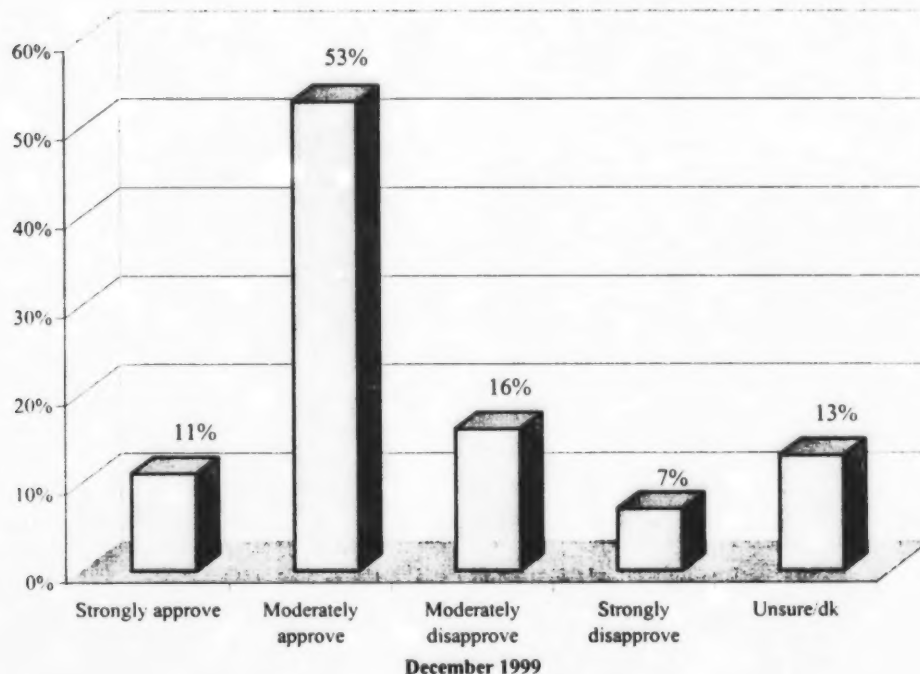
Question 2. What do you think is the most important issue facing the province of Saskatchewan today?



- According to 45% of Saskatchewan residents, the most important issue facing the province today is agriculture. Approximately 14% of residents think health care is the most important issue, 13% taxes, 6% jobs and unemployment, 4% the economy and 2% the accumulated provincial debt.
- Included among 'other' important issues identified by 12% of respondents are government in general (2%), crime and poverty (2%), Native issues (2%), education (1%), and highways (1%), and population loss (1%).

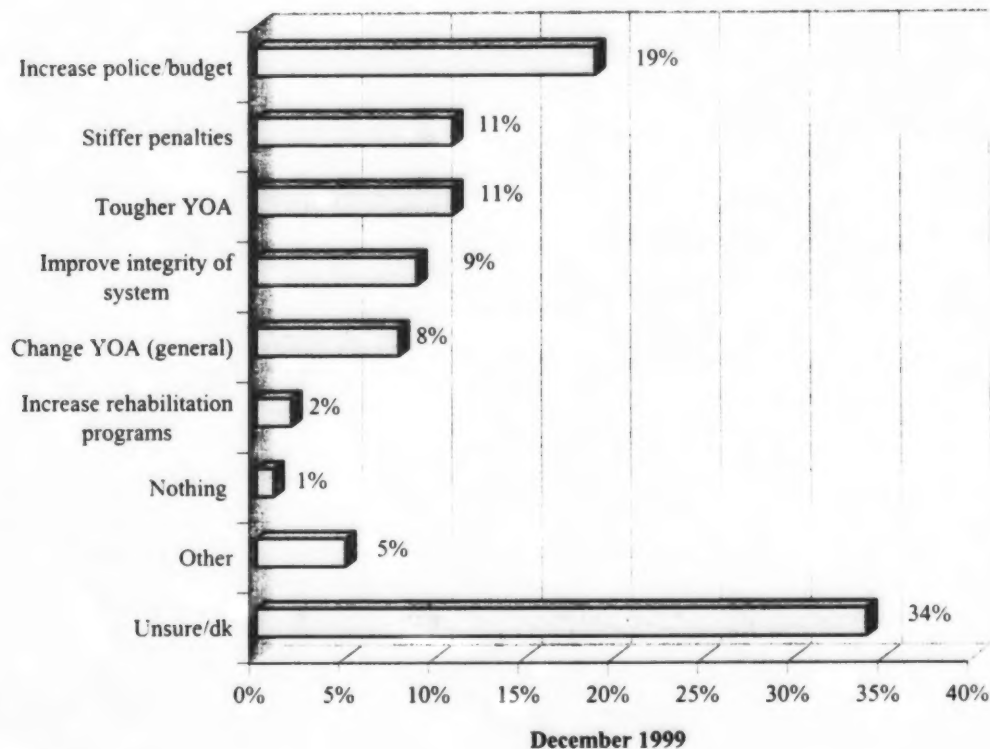
2.0 JUSTICE

Question 3. Generally speaking, do you strongly approve, moderately approve, moderately disapprove or strongly disapprove of the way Saskatchewan's provincial government is handling the policing of communities?



- Approximately two thirds of Saskatchewan residents (64%) approve of how the provincial government is handling the policing of communities.

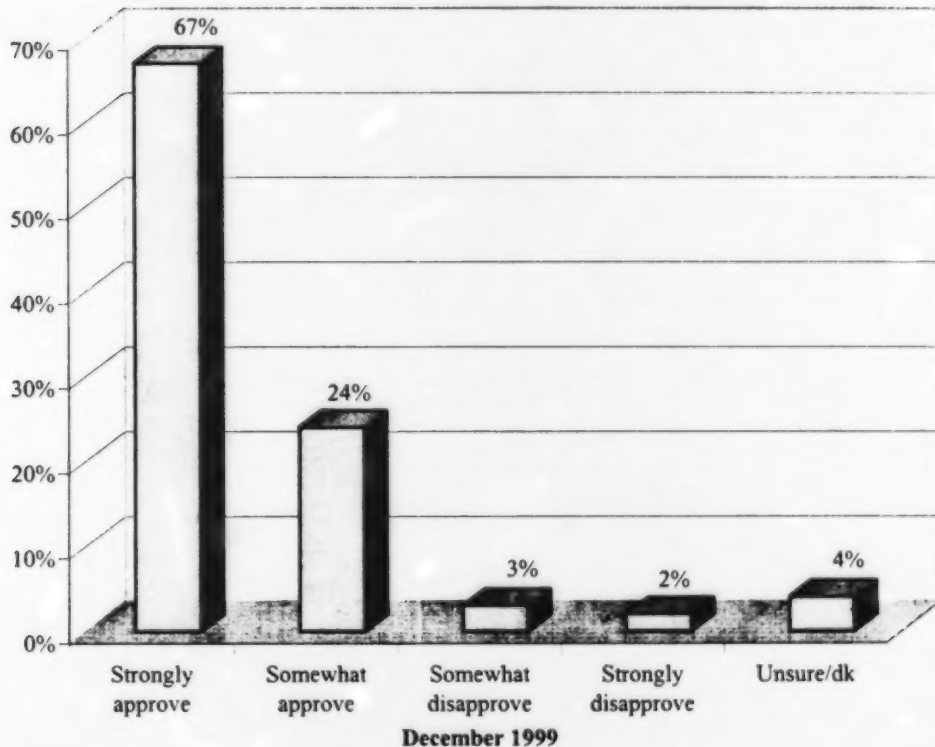
Question 4. What would you like to see changed about the way Saskatchewan's government manages policing and the justice system?



- About one fifth of residents (19%) would like to see the provincial government increase the budget to hire more police. Approximately 11% would like tougher punishment and longer terms, another 11% would like to see a tougher Young Offenders Act with stronger penalties to young offenders, 9% identify improving the integrity of the justice system, and 8% would like to see general changes to the Young Offenders Act.

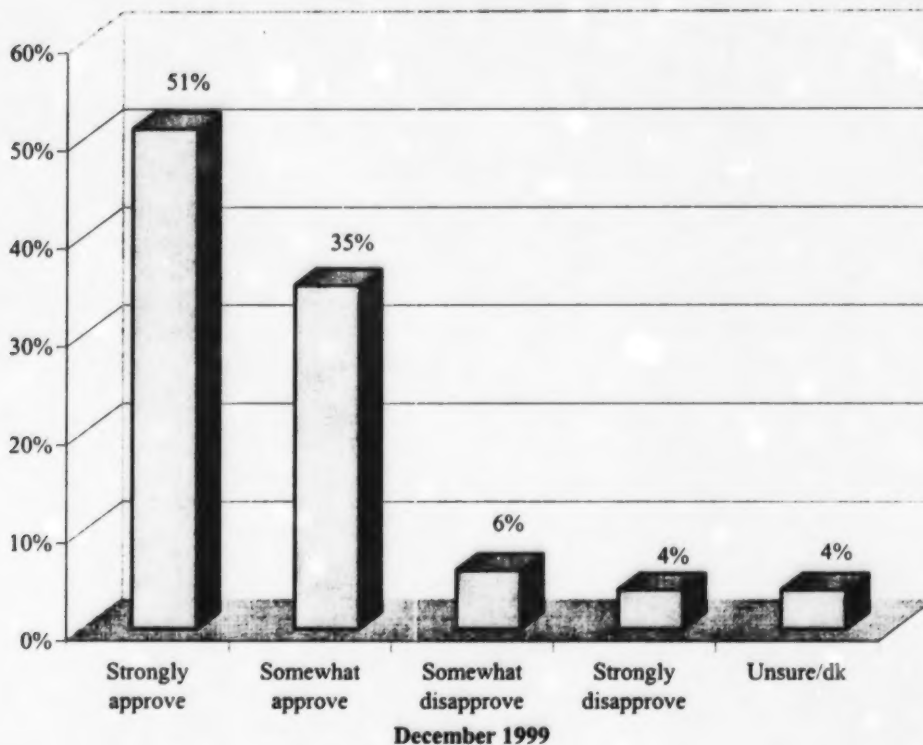
I am going to outline some of the changes the government is making to the justice system. I'd like you to tell me if you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove of the following initiatives:

Question 5a. The government has targeted funds to set up a program called the "Serious and Habitual Youth Offender Comprehensive Action Program". It's a partnership between police and prosecutors aimed at identifying the minority of young offenders who commit most of the crimes, tracking them, and getting them off the streets.



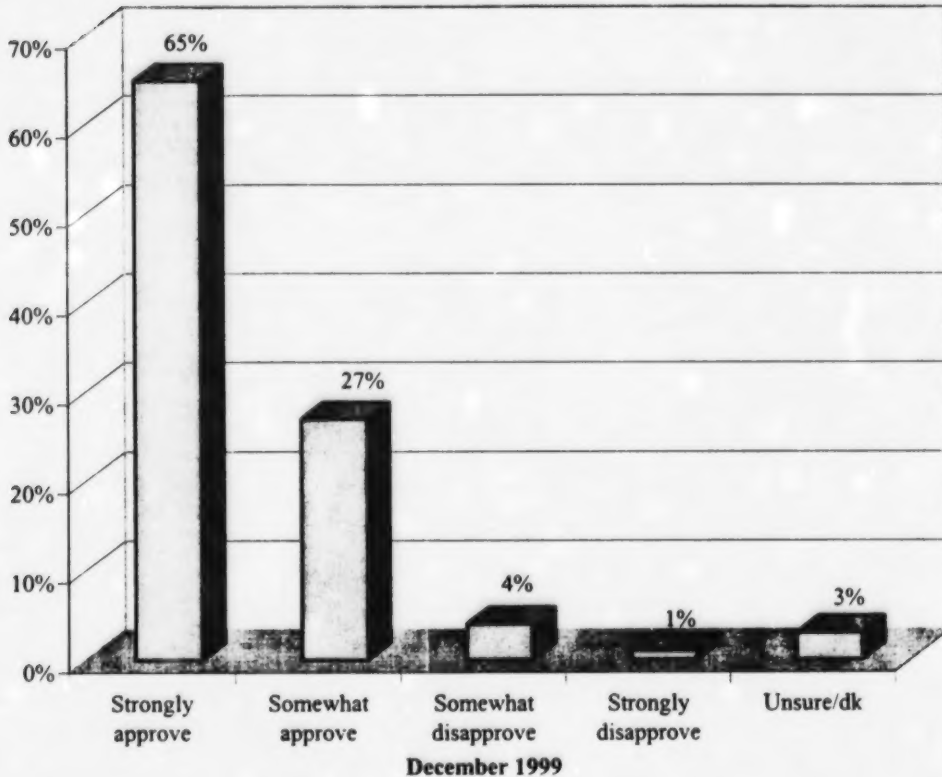
- The vast majority of residents (91%) approve of targeting funds to set up a program called the "Serious and Habitual Youth Offender Comprehensive Action Program".

Question 5b. The government has targeted funds to strengthen the prosecutions branch of the justice department by hiring more prosecutors and support staff so that trials take place more quickly, and prosecutors have more time to work on individual cases.



- The large majority of Saskatchewan residents (86%) approve of targeting funds to strengthen the prosecutions branch of the justice department by hiring more prosecutors and support staff.

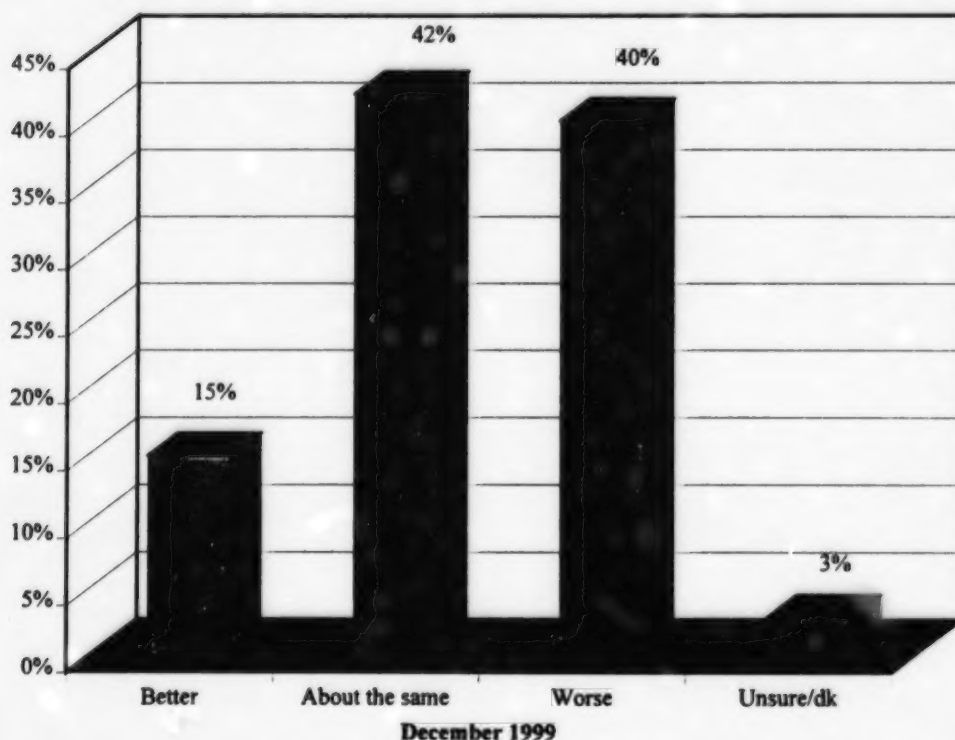
Question 5c. The government has launched a “serious crimes task force” to fight crimes like the drug and sex trade, child pornography, and money laundering committed by organized groups like motorcycle gangs. The task force brings together the RCMP, city police forces, and a special prosecution team.



- Almost all Saskatchewan residents (92%) approve of launching a “serious crimes task force” to fight crimes like the drug and sex trade, child pornography, and money laundering.

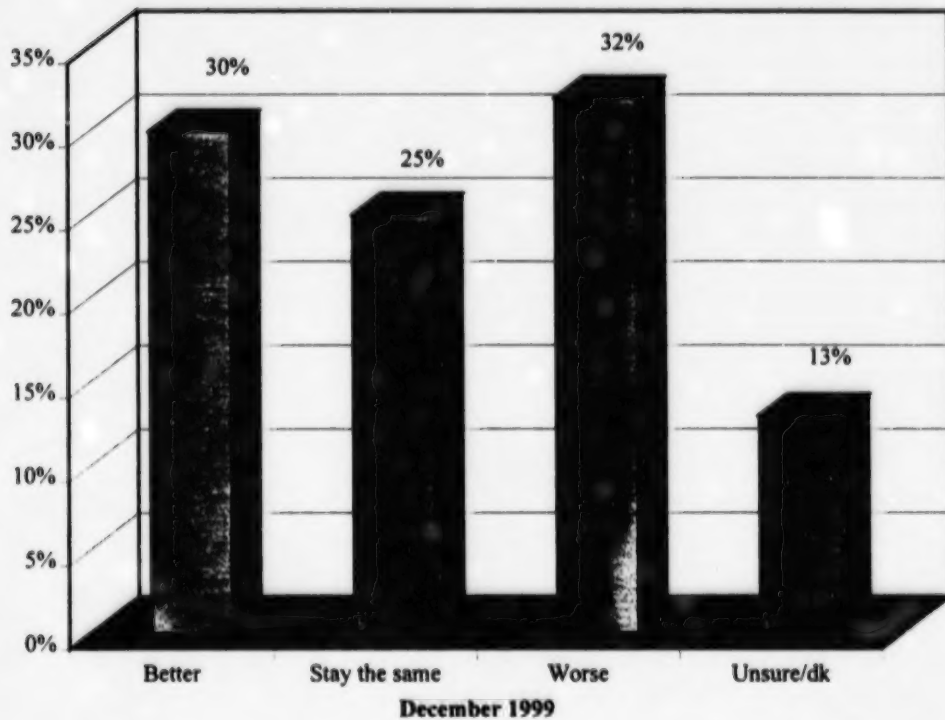
3.0 ECONOMY

Question 6. How do you feel about the Saskatchewan economy right now? In general do you think things are getting better, worse or staying about the same?



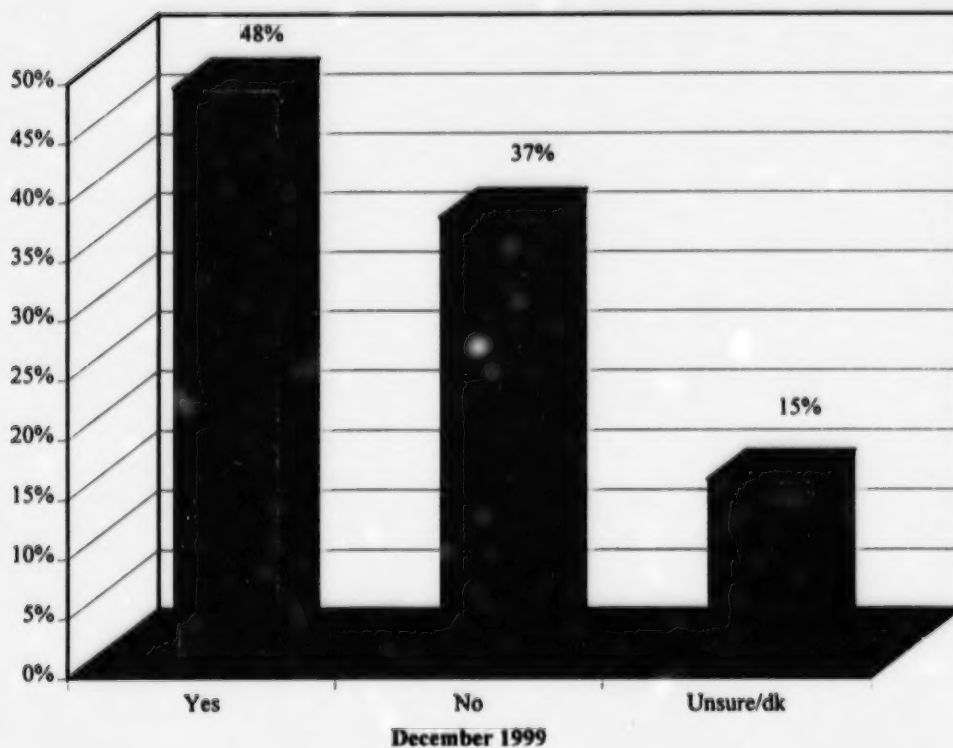
- The majority (57%) of Saskatchewan residents think the provincial economy is staying the same or getting better.

Question 7. How do you feel the provincial economy will do over the next 10 years?
Do you think it will get better, worse or stay about the same?



- Almost one third (30%) of residents think the provincial economy will get better over the next ten years.

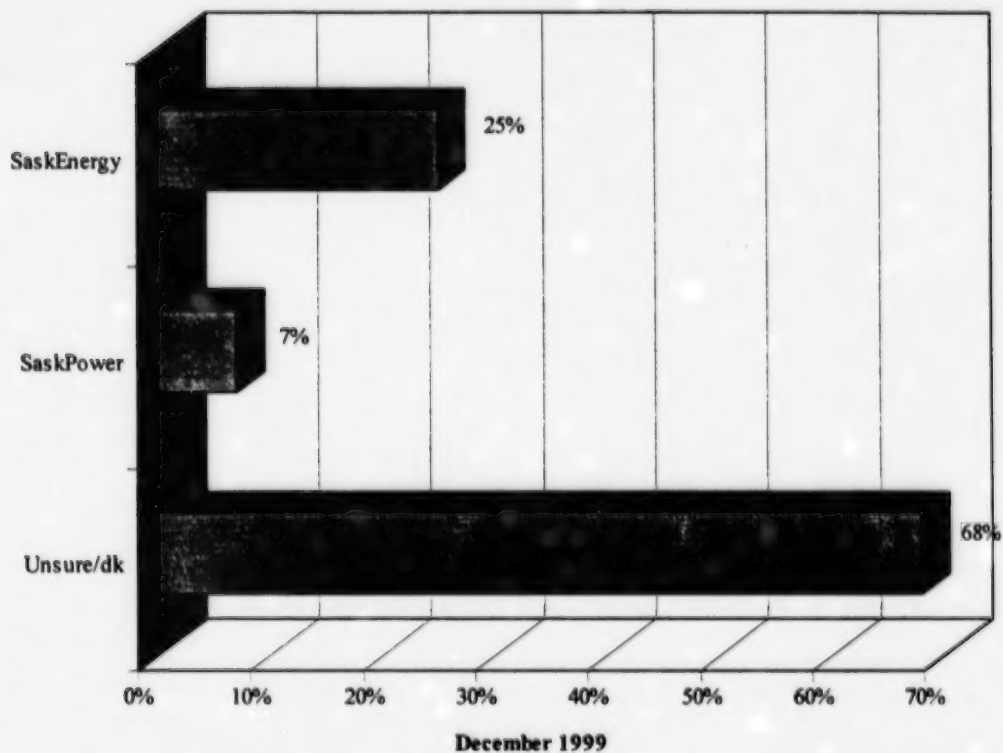
Question 8. Do you personally feel you will be better off 5 years from now?



- Almost one half (48%) of Saskatchewan residents believe they will be better off five years from now.

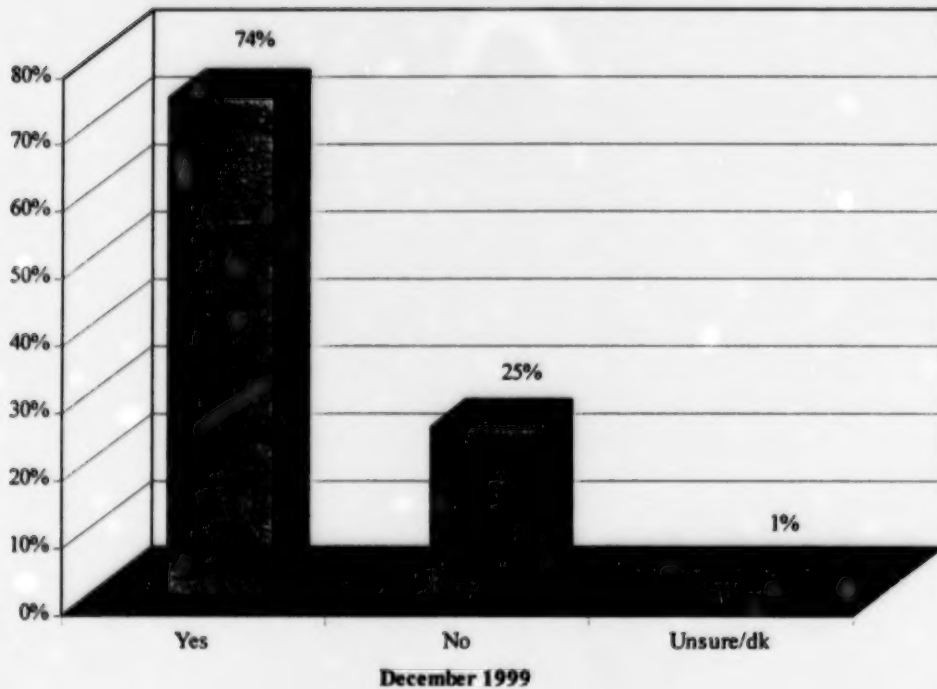
4.0 “SHARE THE WARMTH”

Question 9. Do you know which Saskatchewan company uses the slogan “Share the Warmth” to refer to their community relations program?



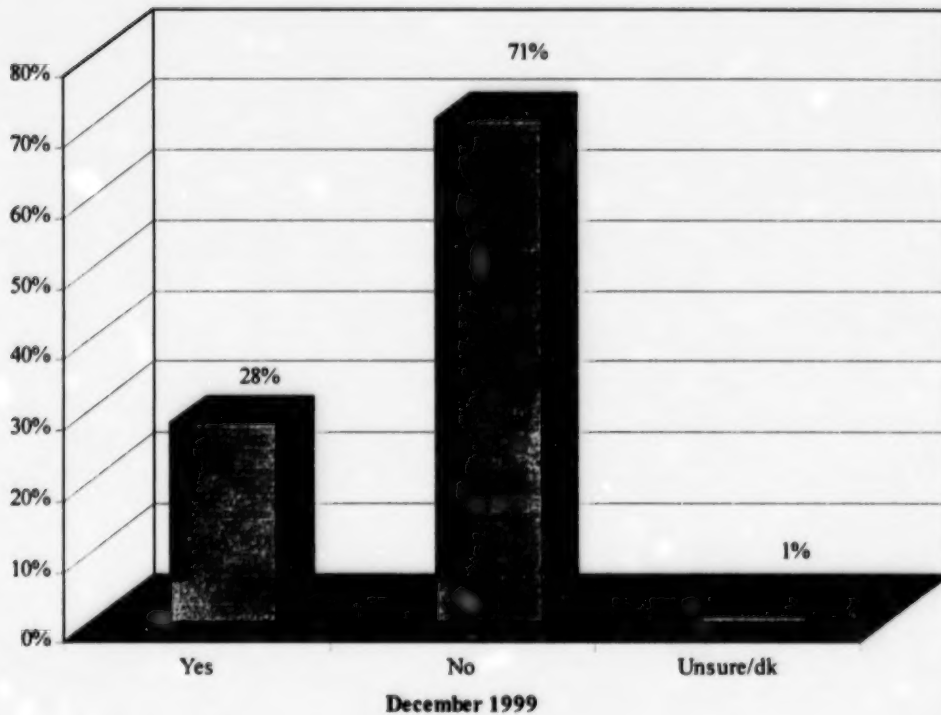
- One quarter of residents (25%) are aware that SaskEnergy is the Saskatchewan company which uses the slogan “Share the Warmth” to refer to their community relations program.

Question 10. Did you hear about the "Sweater Recycling Program", a SaskEnergy Share the Warmth program?



- Approximately three quarters of residents (74%) have heard about the "Sweater Recycling Program".

Question 11. Did you participate in any way?

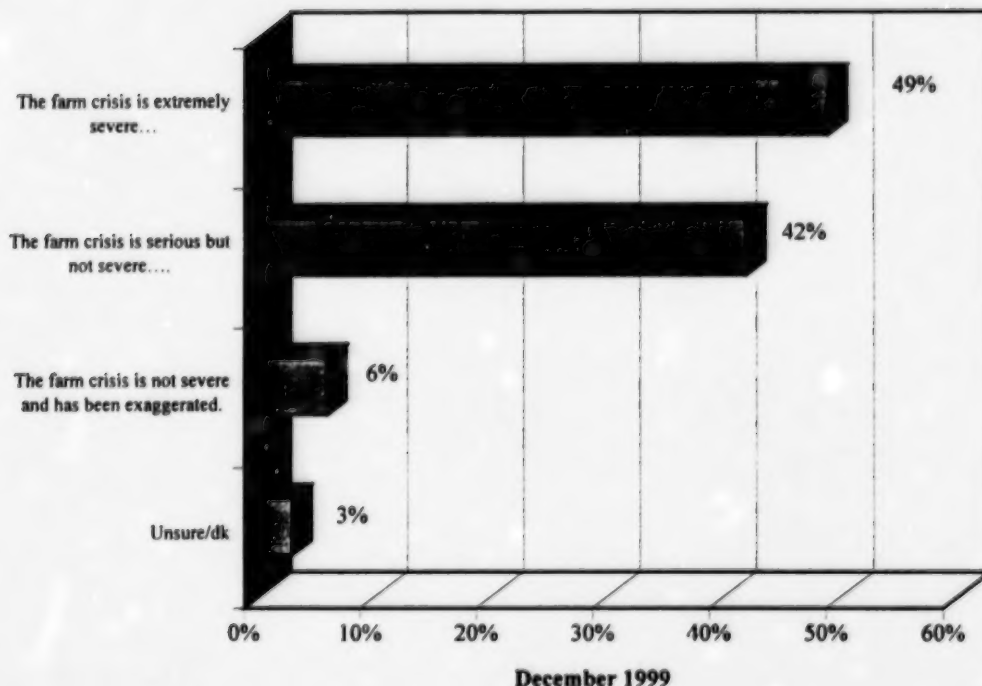


- Over one quarter (28%) have participated in SaskEnergy's "Sweater Recycling Program" in some way.

5.0 AGRICULTURE

Question 12. I'm now going to read you three statements about the farm crisis in Saskatchewan. I would like you to tell me which one of the three you most agree with.

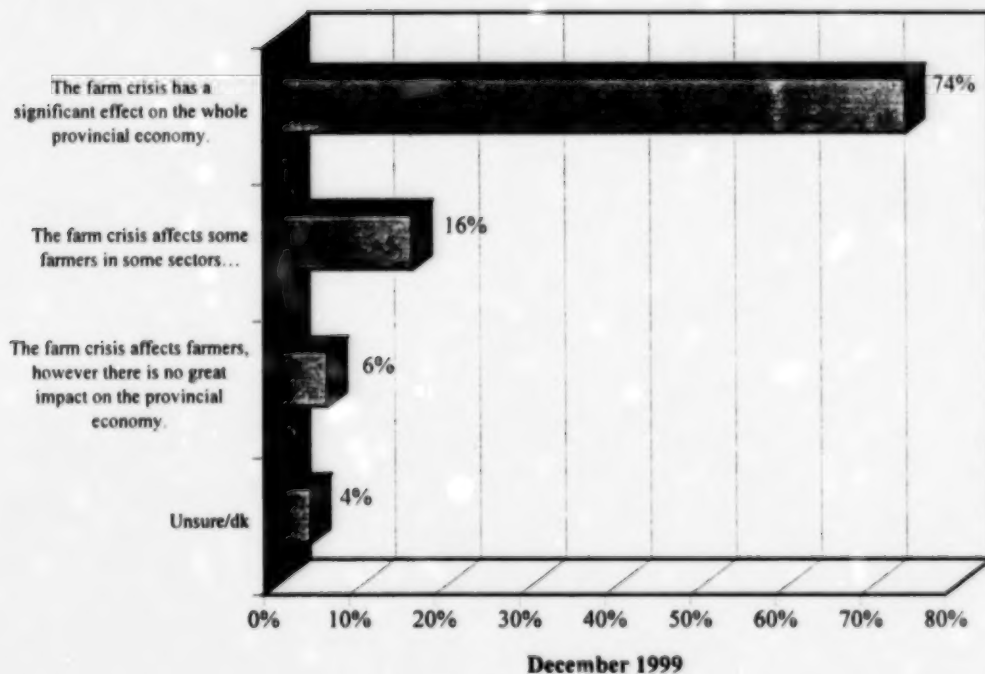
- The farm crisis is extremely severe, approaching disaster proportions. Conditions are close to what they were in the Dirty 30's.
- The farm crisis is serious but not severe. Many farmers have adequate resources to maintain their operation.
- The farm crisis is not severe and has been exaggerated.



- About one half of residents (49%) think the farm crisis is extremely severe, approaching disaster proportions, with conditions close to what they were in the Dirty 30's. Another 42% think the farm crisis is serious but not severe and that many farmers have adequate resources to maintain their operation, 6% think the farm crisis is not severe and has been exaggerated.

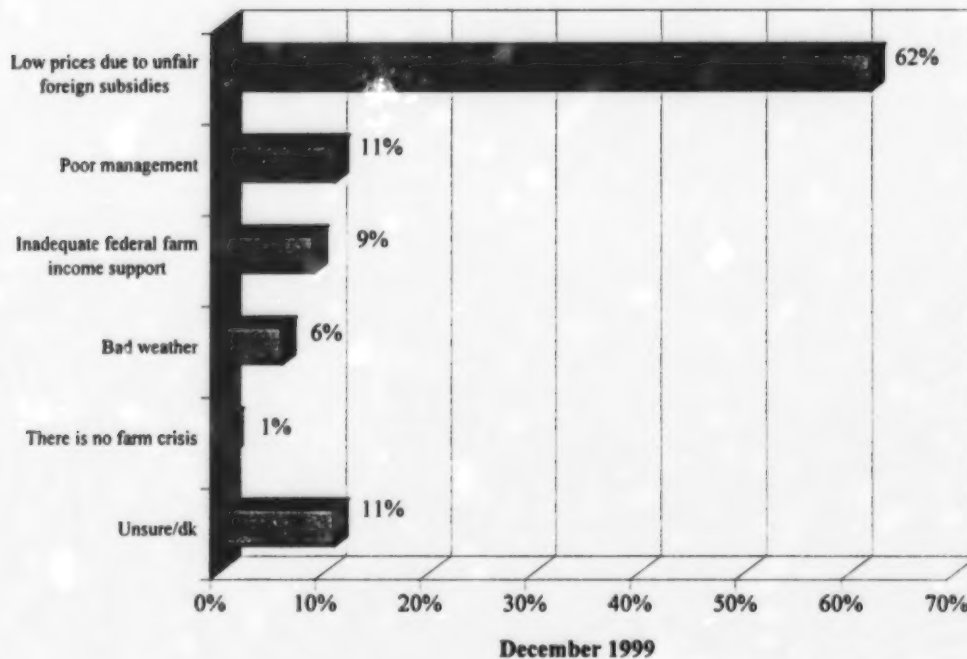
Question 13. I'm going to read another three statements about the farm crisis in Saskatchewan. Once again, I would like you to tell me which one of the three you most agree with.

- a) The farm crisis has a significant effect on the whole provincial economy.
- b) The farm crisis affects farmers, however there is no great impact on the provincial economy.
- c) The farm crisis affects some farmers in some sectors. Many farmers have the ability to handle the current income crisis.



- Approximately three quarters of Saskatchewan residents (74%) agree that the farm crisis has a significant effect on the whole provincial economy. About 16% of residents think that the farm crisis affects some farmers in some sectors and that many farmers have the ability to handle the current income crisis, and another 6% think that the farm crisis affects farmers, however there is no great impact on the provincial economy.

Question 14. If you agree there is a farm crisis, what would you say the main cause is?



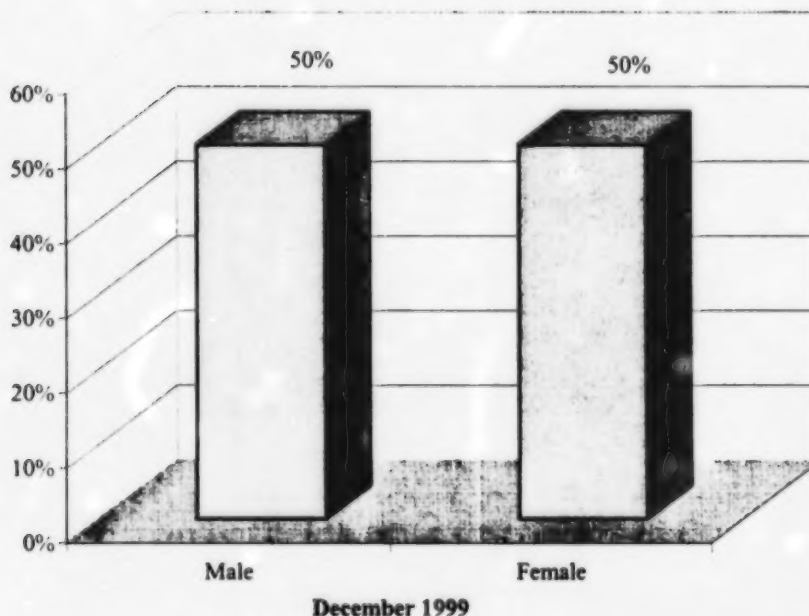
- The majority of residents (62%) think the main cause of the farm crisis is low prices due to unfair subsidies. About one in ten (11%) think poor management is the main cause, 9% mention inadequate federal income support, and 6% attribute the farm crisis to bad weather.

APPENDIX II SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

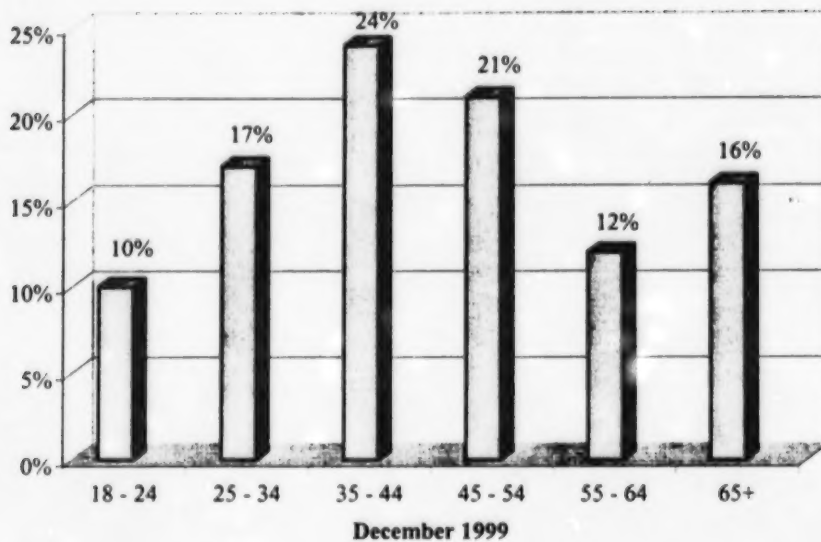
The omnibus public opinion sample frame is constructed to facilitate proportionate representation of various demographic characteristics evident within the province of Saskatchewan. This ensures that opinions of all the various types of residents in Saskatchewan are proportionately represented in the statistical measurements documented in this report. The demographic distributions from the survey sample generally parallel the province's actual population distributions, as measured by Statistics Canada census data.

The omnibus survey sample size of 1,000 people yields public opinion measurements with a statistical level of confidence of 95 percent within an overall margin of error for the point estimates contained in this report of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

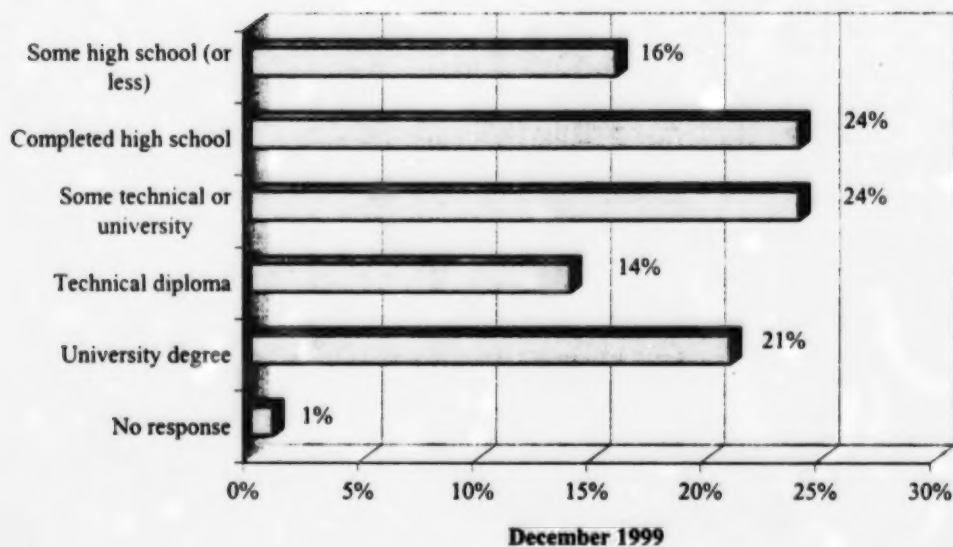
Survey sample gender distribution



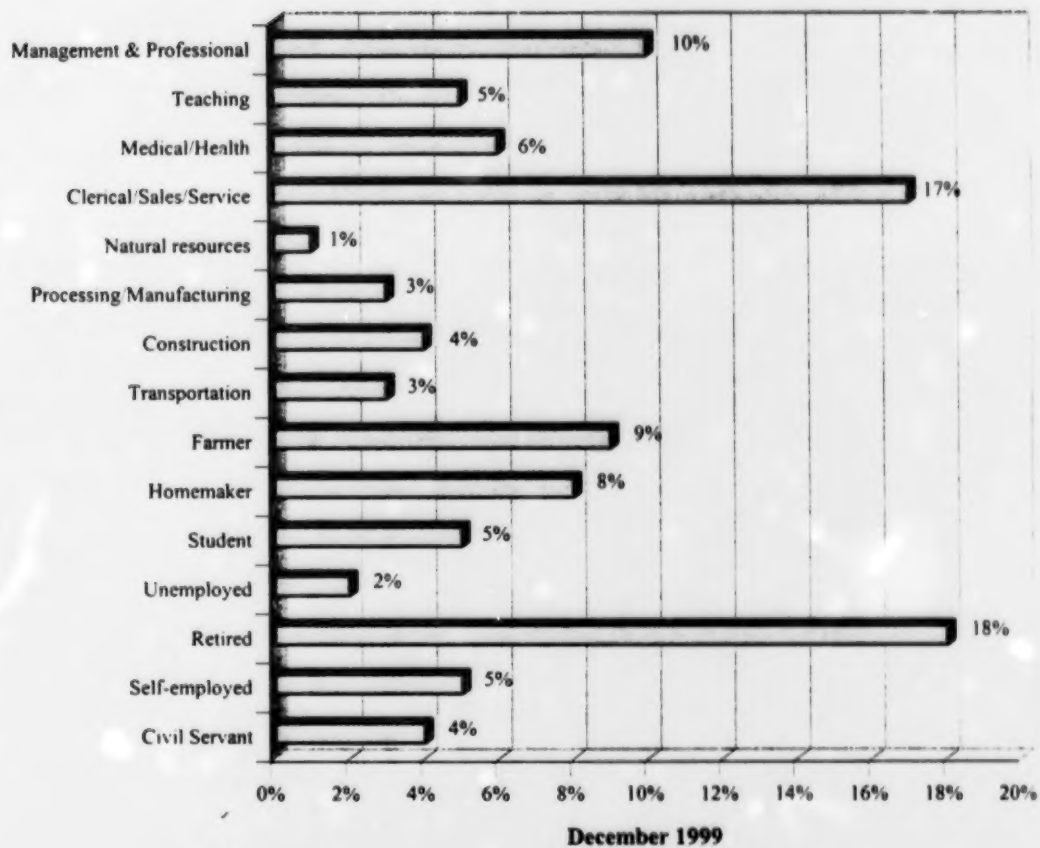
Survey sample age distribution



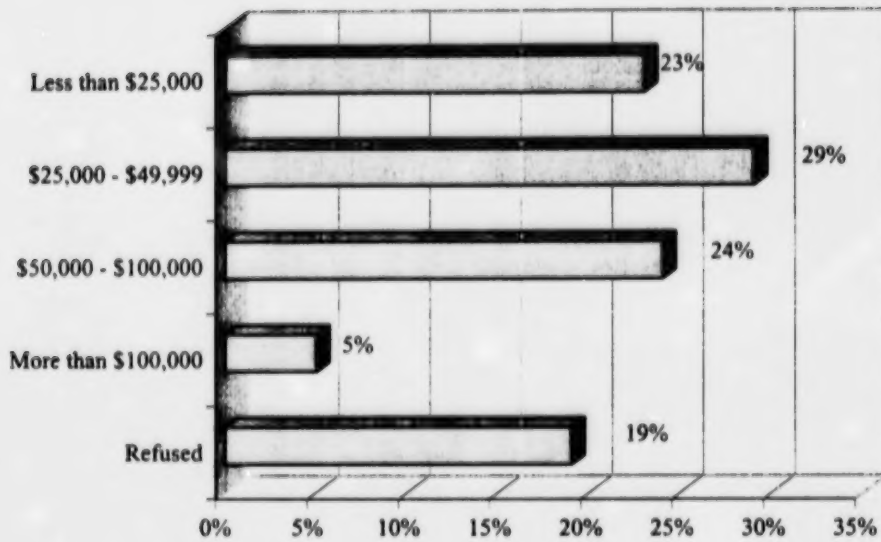
Survey sample education distribution



Survey sample occupation distribution

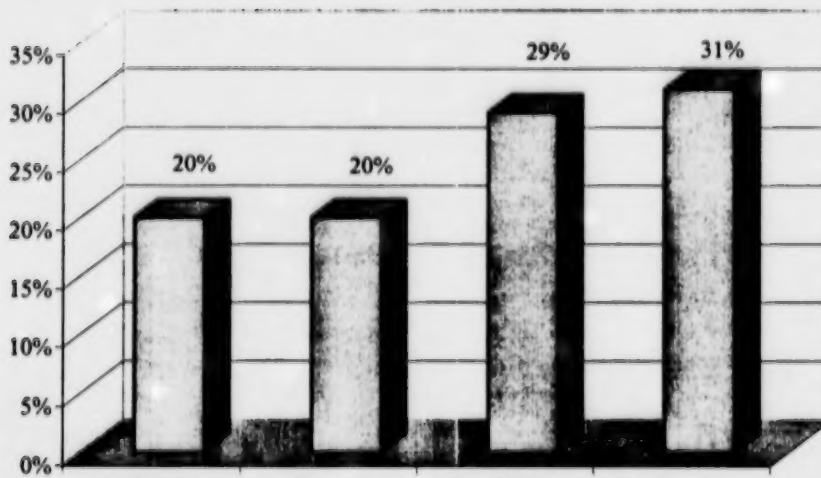


Survey sample income distribution



December 1999

Survey sample regional distribution



December 1999